

MEMOIR
OF
JOHN FINCH MARSH.

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A MEMOIR
OF
JOHN FINCH MARSH,
OF CROYDON,
WHO DIED IN THE AUTUMN OF 1873.

BY HIS DAUGHTER.

Mrs. Alice Pitt



OBTAINABLE OF HANNAH MARSH, 32, PARK LANE, CROYDON, S.

OR,

G. & P. PITT, MITCHAM, SURREY.

(1873)
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P R E F A C E.

HAVING been called upon at a very unexpected season, to watch beside the dying bed of my ever dearly beloved father, JOHN FINCH MARSH, and while yet hoping for and expecting his recovery, being struck with the impressiveness of his words, I felt impelled (unknown to him) to note them down. After his departure, I conceived the idea of printing a simple account of his illness and death, as the most effectual way of answering the enquiries of our friends, and easing my own mind of a responsibility.

Circumstances, however, combining to enable me to remain a little while with my bereaved mother, she gave me permission to search among his papers, where I found very little left behind of an early date—but a considerable amount of memorandums of later years; also some scattered copies of his letters to various friends, and a packet of his letters to Richard Allen, of Waterford, recently returned to my father at R. A.'s request, soon after his decease.

This search commenced at the desire of the friends (appointed by our monthly meeting to prepare a testimony concerning him) that we would furnish them with some account of his early life, &c.

But here the query arose, whether some selection from these writings should be prepared in addition to the closing scene. And inwardly becoming sensible of a gentle and clear pointing that a little work of this kind was to devolve on me, I did not feel my way clear to return to the engagements of home until it was ready for the press.

And although I regret to add to the great store of books already on our shelves, I believe I should fail in my duty to survivors if I were to neglect thus to revive his memory,—not for his sake—but for the sake of that testimony to Truth which was given him when young, and lived in his heart to his latest days.

And though I feel a most precious unity with his spirit, I forbear to say much concerning him, preferring that his heart should be unveiled by his own words.

And now, having with tears laid my little offering on the altar, in much love to all, I leave this caution with the reader:—It needs to be read in stillness, and with the true eye opened.

PRISCILLA PITT.

Park Lane, Croydon, 1873.

INTRODUCTION.

MY FATHER was born in the year 1789. After receiving a fair education, he was apprenticed to the linen drapery with his cousin, Samuel Weetch, of Ratcliff, till the age of twenty-one, when he was engaged as shop assistant with Mary Liversidge and John T. Shewell, at Ipswich. His last situation was with John Kitching, linen draper, in Whitechapel, London, whom he ultimately succeeded in the business in 1818. This he carried on satisfactorily for ten years, with a consistent plainness, closing his shop to allow of all attending their mid-week meeting, and would often find customers waiting their return. His marriage took place in the year 1819, to Hannah Lucas, daughter of Samuel and Ann Lucas, corn dealers, in Warwick-street, London, with whom he had been acquainted from childhood. Of their four daughters, two died in infancy, and one peacefully breathed her last in the thirty-seventh year of her age. In 1828, partly from delicate health, and to be more set at liberty for religious service, he retired from business, and the year following came to reside at this cottage in Park Lane, Croydon, which he used to style "our comfortable, peaceful home."

The first record we find of his having spoken in meeting was in his twenty-second year. He was acknowledged as a minister in unity in 1818, by Devonshire

House monthly meeting. His travels in the work of the ministry with the unity of his monthly meeting extended over a period of forty-three years, commencing in 1822, during which time he visited all the meetings of Friends in most of the English counties, and some of them several times. Also in Guernsey and Jersey and the Isle of Wight; in Wales and Scotland; and three times paid a general visit to Friends in Ireland, viz., in 1837, '56, and '65. His calling was much in the way of private sittings with individuals or families, which service he diligently performed in many places. Four times, at least, he visited in this way the Friends near home. The largest engagement of this kind was in the winter of 1846-7, when he had 277 sittings alone with the young men in our quarterly meeting, 66 with the young women, and 229 other sittings. He not unfrequently was led to hold meetings with persons not in our Society where his lot was cast, and once accompanied Sarah Harris, of Bradford, and Mary B. Brown, her companion, to some parts of Holland and Germany. There are evidences and testimonies that his labours in Gospel love were acceptable, and not without fruit. His ministry, like his nature, was loving and persuasive, bearing a clear testimony to the spiritual and inward nature of religion, and of the powerful operation and working of saving grace in the secret of the heart, often reminding us that it was "an individual work." Perhaps on the occasion of interments, his ministry was most of all impressive. It was then his exhortations on the vanities of life, and the realities of death, seemed to penetrate the hearts of many present, and leave a savour of divine life long to be remembered.

His heart yearned over little children, that they might not be hindered from coming to the Saviour by

the indifference of those around them ; and often when he met with infants would instructively remark, “ This is what we must all come to—the state of a little child.”

He was remarkable in life for endeavouring to walk spotless, and not join with anything that by the inward light was forbidden him, and in the near approach of death he was the same.

He directed that none of his money should be given for the promotion of those undertakings in our Society with which he had not felt unity, *because* they were not sufficiently carried on in accordance with the principles we profess, saying we could not depart from them without going back to a *lower dispensation* ; and *because*, deeply feeling the need of a daily cross to possess a true religion, he believed that a superficial religion, or profession only, had too much usurped its place among us, and become a substitute for that vital Christianity, or the life and witness of God manifest in the soul, which ought to *precede* all our efforts for the good of our fellow creatures. Otherwise he had a sympathizing heart, easily moved to pity and compassion.

He often used to say, “ When I was young, I felt that if there was only one Quaker left, I must be that one ”—a feeling he retained to his end. And he lamented that our early Friends’ writings are so little valued and read by friends at the present day.

P. PITT.

A MEMOIR

OF

JOHN FINCH MARSH.

WITHOUT observing any strict rule, I thought it well to give some memorandums from my father's diary, as they occur in point of time ; after that his dying expressions, concluding with selections from his correspondence.

FIRST—HIS DIARY.

I was born on the fourth day of third month, 1789, at Chatham, in the county of Kent, and descended of honest and virtuous parents. Their names were Thomas and Catherine Marsh. My father was the son of Thomas and Hannah Marsh, and born at Folkestone, 19th of 10th mo. 1748, O. S. My mother, the daughter of Peter and Mary Finch, it appears was born at Chatham, near Canterbury.

1810, 2nd mo. 24th. Emila Marsh, my brother William's wife, died about ten o'clock in the evening.

1810, 3rd mo. 4th. To Ratcliff meeting, morning and afternoon.

1810, 3rd mo. 7th. Left Samuel Weetch.

1810, 6th mo. 4th. Uncle John Finch died.

1810, 6mo. 29th. Came to live with Mary Liveridge and John Shewell, at Ipswich [as assistant].

1810, 8th mo. 12th. Attended Ipswich meeting, morning and afternoon. Appeared with a few words at the morning meeting.

1812, 5th mo. 19th. Left Ipswich.

1812, 7th mo. 8th. Went to Deptford [as assistant to Joseph Shewell].

1813, 7th mo. 5th. Left my kind and affectionate friend Joseph Shewell.

1813, 8th mo. 3rd. Went to Coggeshall, and 9th mo., 27th, left it.

1813, 10th mo. 21st. Went to Colchester [to E. Brockway's], and left it 3rd mo. 24th, 1814.

From 7th of 4th mo. 1814, to the 15th of 5th mo. 1814, again with my dear friend Joseph Shewell.

From 22nd of 8th mo. 1814, to the 26th of 2nd mo. 1815, again with my dear friend Joseph Shewell.

1814, 6th mo. 12th, 1st day. At a friend's house this evening; after supper had a religious opportunity, and was enabled, I trust in an acceptable manner to acknowledge the Lord, and have cause to believe it was an act of obedience with which He was pleased.

22nd, 4th day. At Dover week-day meeting appeared in supplication and testimony.

26th, 1st day. Attended Canterbury meeting, and appeared in supplication and testimony.

30th. At a friend's house at Maidstone; had a religious opportunity in supplication in the evening.

7th mo. 2nd, 1st day. Attended Rochester meeting morning and evening, much to the satisfaction and comfort of my mind; in the former was engaged in testimony; they were both precious meetings with me.

During the few weeks I spent in Kent, which was a visit to my relations there, I was permitted to enjoy frequent opportunities of religious retirement.

Whitechapel, 10th mo., 1816.

Some account of a short visit to Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

Early on 3rd day morning, 17th of 9th mo., 1816, left London by coach for Southampton, and arrived there about six o'clock. Lodged at the George Inn. I have good reason to remember that evening, both before and after retiring to bed, it being a season of divine favour, my soul tasted of the goodness of the Lord, and under an humbling sense thereof was sweetly bowed in supplication. Slept comfortably, and awoke in the morning much refreshed; walked a little before breakfast. At eleven went to meeting, sat with a very small company, and expressed a little by way of encouragement. Here I met with John Barclay, who kindly engaged to meet me in the afternoon at W. W.'s, at whose house I dined, to walk with me. I was pleased with his company, and presently found him an amiable, interesting companion; his mind evidently appears impressed with much seriousness, a seriousness accompanied with a solemn sweetness. I esteem it a privilege my lot was cast so as to meet with him. He has been much the pleasant companion of my thoughts since my return; my heart has rejoiced on his account, and been comforted in the belief that he is bowing with fear and humility under the forming hand of the Lord. My heart longs for his encouragement, and that he may continue to be preserved in a watchful, humble frame, that so none of the many hindering, hurtful things that are in the world may be permitted in any degree to obstruct his progress in that path in which I believe the feet of his mind are sweetly turned. Oh! how delightful and encouraging in passing along to meet with those young in years concerned to remember their Creator in the

days of their youth. My heart, yea all that is within me, is at times made to rejoice over such as these, and tenderly and affectionately desires their encouragement and growth in the Truth.

May I be so preserved on the watch as to omit no opportunity of doing what my hands find to do, and endeavouring to encourage and strengthen the minds of these precious-visited, exercised little ones, according to that ability which may be given. The mind thus engaged, if careful not to move beyond present ability, if careful to attend to right feeling, need not be afraid, while thus preserved in the simplicity and humility, of expressing anything that would be likely to bring forth anything like unripe fruit, or an untimely birth; but would, I believe, if faithful in attending to the pointings of Truth in the inward parts, be made instrumental in different and many ways, to gather the children and people—to strengthen the brethren and sisters.

We spent the remaining part of the day pleasantly; went to Netley Abbey to see those ancient and interesting ruins; the scenery of country and water from the spot and about Southampton exceedingly beautiful. Got back in the evening in time to meet our young friend Edmund Janson, who had been on a visit at J. S.'s at Shaftesbury, and agreeable to appointment met me here in order to accompany me to the island. We supped at W. W.'s.

19th. After breakfast our young friend J. B. met us and accompanied us to Netley Abbey; spent the morning pleasantly together, stopped at a neat, quiet house on our return, and, taking a light meal, got back in time for the packet, when, parting with dear J. B., went on board between three and four, and after a pleasant sail with agreeable company, landed at Cowes about six,

took some tea, and walked to Newport in the dark.

[Here follows an account of their brief walking excursion on the island, and of his return to Whitechapel on the 23rd.]

[It is to be regretted that nothing more than a few scattered memorandums can be found during the interesting period of his early life, so that there appears to be no record concerning the happy event of his marriage, which took place in the year 1819.]

1821, 12th mo. 1st. After reading the 6th chapter of Daniel in the morning, this language seemed pleasantly impressed on my mind—"The same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him." In the afternoon had a short time of retirement in my chamber.

1823, 1st mo. 1st. Last evening, at the close of an eventful year, my mind favoured with the overshadowing of good; and to-day the secret breathing of it hath been that the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart may be more acceptable in the Divine sight for the future than of late they have been.

[Near the close of a long visit to relatives at Warwick, he mentions,]

1831, 11th mo. 27th. We attended Warwick meeting morning and afternoon. My dear wife and self appeared in testimony in the morning. In the afternoon broke up meeting too soon, which was a cause of much uneasiness to my poor mind the remainder of the evening, &c., having reason to believe that my dear Hannah was not quite clear of some in that little company, and came away burdened. Oh! what sorrow and regret I felt!

1839, 2nd mo. 9th. [Being on a visit at Rochester] I called on a medical man, having felt my mind secretly attracted towards him in love; I found him at home. We had a sweet little time together, much to my

satisfaction, and I trust to our mutual comfort and strengthening. I believe him to be a valuable character, one whose mind has often been preciousy visited, humbled and contrited, under a sense of the goodness and mercy of the Lord towards him, and which I believe has followed him from his youth up, and continues to follow him. May he be preserved humble and watchful! O the preciousness of the love of our Heavenly Father, shed abroad in the hearts of the children of men!

7th mo. 24th. I attended the interment of the remains of dear Eliza Bell, at Croydon. Her dear bereaved husband seemed preserved in much calmness, and was strengthened to express a few words sweetly at the grave side. There were several communications in the meeting, and some supplications. I am of the mind, that more silence, and fewer words would have been more profitable and edifying. I incline to think if there was more inwardness and watchfulness, that there would be less of the feeling of excitement experienced by those who may at times have to minister, than it is to be feared, is often the case on such occasions.

[Whilst holding a minute, liberating both my parents for service in Croydon, during which time they had nearly 50 sittings with Friends, also sittings in nearly 60 families not Friends.]

1840, 1st mo. 26th, 1st day. Very poor, and stripped of the feeling of good, and of any qualification or fitness for the important engagement in prospect [among our neighbours]. P. B., R. B., H. D., and Brother S. H. L. took tea with us, they being appointed by the monthly meeting to confer with and assist us in making the way for our visits. After tea we had a comfortable, strengthening and encouraging time together. R. B. appeared in supplication.

27th. We took tea in company with dear M. S., who had very sweetly and encouragingly to address my dear wife and myself in the prospect of what was before us ; it was a precious opportunity. Dear H. Dymond called and spent a little time very pleasantly with us. I feel much love to flow in my heart towards him, and desire to have more and more of his company, which think, I may say, is always instructive to me.

28th. Retired comfortably to rest last night, and this morning my mind is favoured to feel calm and quiet.

29th. In the evening commenced our visits, sitting with F. and E. —, a sweet and refreshing opportunity.

We are proceeding, I trust, safely and peacefully in our engagement ; oftentimes comforted with a feeling of sweet fellowship of spirit in the company of the humble in heart, in our visits. And I think I may acknowledge that gratitude has often been the covering of our minds for the help which has from time to time been afforded to our own humbling admiration, so that we are abundantly compensated for the humiliating and proving seasons we are often introduced into.

3rd mo. 15th, 1st day. Felt something towards an individual who attended our meeting in the afternoon (not in membership with us), at the close of which I found it safest for me to seek an opportunity with him, which I did by walking a little way with him, much to the peace of my own mind, and I believe to the comfort of his. He parted sweetly from me, expressing the desire the Lord might be with me. He was at meeting also in the morning. I think his words were, "The Lord be with thee."

Myself and wife attended the marriage of — and

——. We dined at the house ; a large company. The want of simplicity at the dinner table, as also in the appearance of some as respects dress, was affecting to witness. O the sorrowful departure in this our day, in so many ways, from the simplicity which the Truth leads into, and would lead into, was there but an individual faithfulness in yielding to the dictates thereof—its pure teaching and guiding.

I attended the marriage of —— and ——, and appeared in testimony. On going into the room afterwards to speak with the bride and bridegroom, &c., I was concerned to see such a display of flowers, so many having a nosegay in their hands. Alas ! how many deviations there are in the present day from the simplicity which the Truth would lead all into, was there but a willingness to yield to its simple leadings and guidings. No one perhaps can enjoy the sight of flowers more than myself, and I believe it an allowable pleasure for us all ; but the display of them on this occasion, and in this way, does not feel comfortable to me, neither do I think it right. Also it appears the practice of many Friends now-a-days to ornament their dishes brought to table, with flowers, which does not appear to me consistent in us so to do.

1841, 7th mo. 6th. In the forenoon enjoyed a sweet time in prayer in my chamber, under a renewed sense of the fresh extension of my Heavenly Father's love to my soul. My spirit was, I trust, bowed and contrited with the feeling of gratitude and praise.

[After returning a certificate he held for visiting the meetings in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derby, and Notts., he wrote :]

1842, 1st mo. 20th. During this long engagement it was my lot for the most part to move along in the

feeling of much poverty, and weakness, and strippedness; yet I trust there were times when best help was nigh to strengthen and enable me to bear a faithful testimony to the Truth as it is in Jesus,—and that I was mercifully preserved from doing harm to the precious cause.

3rd mo. 16th. Our beloved friend Sarah [Lynes] Grubb departed this life at Sudbury, aged about 69 years. Great indeed is the loss the church has sustained by the removal of this faithful servant and minister of Christ. She was one eminently gifted for the work of the ministry, in which she was a faithful and diligent labourer from her youth up to the latest period of her life.

23rd. The remains of our beloved Friend S. G. interred at Sudbury before meeting. It was a sweet and solemn time by the grave-side, nothing expressed vocally. In the meeting I ventured to bend the knee. Seven Friends appeared in testimony. I believe it would have been safe for me, and have tended to the peace of my mind, had I simply rose towards the conclusion; but, alas! I suffered the meeting to separate without venturing the expression of a little; and which omission occasioned me to feel sad. Ah! how glad should I have been could I but have got the same company of Friends and others together again when it was too late; and how the lost opportunity was afforded for this exercise of faith, even while the people were rising from their seats, and leaving the meeting-house, which they did in so deliberate and solid a manner.

May this circumstance, or omission, prove a lesson of lasting instruction to me,—and may I yet be favoured to experience a moving along in more simplicity and faith, and in singleness of eye.

1847, 10th mo. 20th. I have been seriously unwell, and confined to my bed about a week. I am now favoured to be nicely recovered, and nearly regained my usual health and strength, and trust that my heart is made to feel thankful to my heavenly Father for this great favour, and for the sense of his goodness and mercy towards me in this time of prostration, which I have to look back upon as a season of renewed favour, wherein I trust I did enjoy something of the Divine presence, and was bowed in spirit before the Lord under a sense of my great unworthiness and unwatchfulness—my many short comings and sins of omission and commission, in which I trust near access was found in prayer and praise, and renewed desires raised after a closer walk with God, and that I might become increasingly humble and watchful; yea, experience a daily watching unto prayer. During my indisposition, I had occasion to be well satisfied with the kind attention paid me by our medical attendant, Edward Westall.

21st. Our Monthly Meeting. It seemed with me to remark on the necessity of witnessing the new birth; signifying that that which was necessary for one individual, was needful for all to experience, viz., a true and real change of heart, and conversion of soul—a being born again agreeable to the doctrine of our Holy Redeemer, which he taught Nicodemus.

11th mo. 8th, 2nd day Morning Meeting. My wife and I attended it. Ann Tweedy, from Truro, was there, and had feelingly to remark on the sorrow it had occasioned her, since being up this way, in seeing the increased departure from the simplicity in our young people, bringing the matter close home to Friends filling the station of Ministers and Elders; giving suitable

counsel, and encouraging to faithfulness in speaking in love one to another, as occasion might seem to require. I was glad of her communication, as also in that it opened the way for my dear wife to obtain some relief in a similar manner, which she was strengthened to do in unison and accordance therewith. Their communications were, I think, a word in season, and may they prove a profitable watchword.

1852, 1st mo. 30th. It is, I trust, under some feeling sense of the love of our Heavenly Father shed abroad in my heart, and for the nearness of access in prayer, renewedly permitted me again of late in my private retirement, that I incline to write what my heart desires to say, and I trust does say, viz., Rejoice in the Lord, O my soul, rejoice in him always, for He hath dealt mercifully and bountifully with thee; yea, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name."

"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Surely the Christian's life is, and ought to be, a life of prayer, of thanksgiving, and of praise. A life of devotedness and dedication of heart unto the Lord, at all times, and in all things. A state of watchfulness is a state of prayer; herein is safety experienced.—How important then is individual attention to the injunction of our Holy Redeemer, to watch and pray, that we enter not into temptation. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."

1853, 1st mo. The present is an awful time, calculated indeed to awaken and arouse to serious thoughtfulness and reflection—a season of mourning and heaviness with many. The latter part of the past year, with the opening of the present, has been, and is still, fraught

with solemn and fearful events, from the very long continuance of much rain and consequent damp atmosphere, with much illness from fever and other indisposition, the town of Croydon and its neighbourhood being remarkably visited thereby, very many being ill, and many removed by death.

How striking that in the short space of five weeks six individuals, members of Croydon Particular Meeting, should have been called upon to render up their accounts; and in about six weeks the remains of each consigned to the silent grave. Affecting, indeed, the events that have been happening about us in this time of visitation with sickness and death. Fever of a typhoid or a typhus kind, with diarrhoea; and in most cases that have been fatal, it seems from the first to have so seized on the intellect as to afford very little if any time of consciousness; so that if preparation for the solemn change was not sought after in time of health, there appears to have been little or no opportunity on the sick bed. Ah! solemn events, indeed, and well it will be if the inhabitants of this place and elsewhere so profit thereby as to seek repentance, forsake sin, and by so doing come to learn righteousness. And well will it be if some of the members of our meeting, yea, all of us, be afresh instructed in the way of righteousness, by yielding to the humbling and contriting power of that chastening Hand which has seen meet to dispense largely to some of this affliction.

2nd mo. 8th. A time of precious quiet in retirement this morning, and prayer.

8th mo. 10th. A. N. dined and took tea with us. This dear young person, aged nearly 19 years, is sweetly visited; the love of our Heavenly Father is, I believe, precious shed abroad in his heart. May he be

strengthened to hold on in the way cast up for him to walk in, in faith and in faithfulness.

Amidst the many discouragements, there are some bright spots to cheer the mourners on their way; here and there a precious plant to cast the eye upon, from which, too, proceeds a fragrant smell, calculated to revive and animate the drooping hope; some sweetly visited minds on whom the good and tender Hand of the Lord is laid, in order, if there be but a yielding to its forming and cleansing power, to fit and qualify for His own work and service in His own way and time.

1854, 9th mo. 8th and 9th. Days spent much in retirement, and I trust in waiting upon the Lord, wherein I was engaged to pour forth my soul in prayer.

10th, 1st day. Toward the close of our evening meeting I ventured in weakness and in fear to stand up, and was, I think, helped in my testimony by Him who "giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength." William Higgins feelingly expressed a little afterwards, and in unison with my communication.

17th. Priscilla and myself by ourselves to-day, wherein we were favoured to experience some precious quiet.

18th. A day spent in profitable retirement, and in the feeling of inward quiet. In the forenoon I trust near access was granted in a time of prayer. Oh! how great the privilege of prayer, and the blessedness which is known and felt when so engaged; when, in private retirement waiting upon God, ability is afforded in prostration of spirit to pour forth the soul unto Him, in the name of His beloved Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

29th. Favoured this morning with the overshadowing

of heavenly good, and my mind clothed with the spirit of prayer; unworthy and undeserving do I feel myself of such mercy in being thus permitted to rejoice in the light of the Lord's countenance, "in whose presence is fulness of joy, at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

10th mo. 15th, 1st day. Having been looking toward going to Wandsworth to-day, to sit with Friends in their meeting, I left home with that intention; but giving way to unprofitable discouragement I returned back, which occasioned me some feeling of regret, and by so doing it is likely I deprived myself of the privilege of the exercise of a little faith.

1855, 4th mo. 13th. The thirty-sixth anniversary of our marriage; many and multiplied have been the blessings and favours received at the Lord's Hand during our happy union. Under the sense thereof, our hearts, I trust, have been often raised in the feeling of gratitude and thankfulness to our Heavenly Father, whose goodness and mercy have indeed followed us all the days of our lives, and whose supporting arm has been near and underneath to sustain and uphold in seasons of deep proving, of trial, and of conflict. Surely we have renewed occasion to adopt the words of the Psalmist and say, "What shall I (we) render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me" (us).

1856, 4th mo. This day, the 13th, memorable as being the thirty-seventh anniversary of our marriage. Many and multiplied have been the mercies and favours continued to us and our beloved daughters since noticing the 13th of 4th mo. in the past year, and renewed desires are, I trust, raised in our hearts that the remainder of our days may be devoted, as ability is afforded, and the requirings may be, to the service of the precious

cause of Truth, which hath been and still is near and dear to us. As in years that are past, and in the morning of life, we may have been strengthened, according to our measure, to sow the seed, so also now in the approaching evening of our day we may not withhold the hand. The watchword is important. Eccles. xi., 6.

1859, 5th mo. 28th. To be again returned to our comfortable and quiet home is truly pleasant, and in being so permitted, I trust our hearts are made to feel thankful to our Heavenly Father for the many favours partaken of during our stay in London, and in the attendance of the Yearly Meeting; and for the help afforded both mentally and bodily.

A stripped time with me, and many are the discouragements of the present day. The sight and sense of the low state of things amongst us as a people is affecting and sorrowful; yet amidst all our various shortcomings, and many and great deficiencies, &c., &c., we were at times, during the sittings of this our Annual Meeting, favoured with the evidence that we are not as yet a forsaken people.

Discouraging as may seem the present aspect of things as regards our religious Society, my faith is that the Lord will preserve unto himself such a People; that there will be preserved from generation to generation those who in their day will be strengthened to stand for the honour of the precious cause of Truth, yea, to bear a faithful testimony to the simplicity of the Truth as it is in Jesus, who will be enabled to uphold those various precious testimonies committed to us as a People to bear before the world.

Testimonies so precious, and for which our forefathers in the Truth suffered so much in a faithful supporting of them.

“Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.”

“One generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts.”—Ps. cxlv., v. 3. 4.

Again, sweetly is set forth the watchful care of our Heavenly Father over His vineyard,—“I the Lord do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day.”—Isaiah xxvii. 3.

1864, 3rd mo. 4th. The forty-fifth anniversary of our marriage. A happy union, having been, as we trust, joined together in and by the Lord, blessed of Him, and in and to each other. Surely we have abundant cause reverently to bless and praise His holy Name for his goodness and mercy which has followed us, not only through this lengthened period of a happy married life, but we may also say from our youth up, yea, from the days of our early childhood; so that under some sense and feeling, the query may well be, not only, what shall we render? but also, what have we hitherto rendered unto Him for all His benefits towards us, for all His manifold gifts and blessings, both spiritual and temporal? Many have been the trials, conflicts, and exercises through which we have had to pass during our journeying along; yet through all, the good and tender Hand of the Lord hath been near to sustain and support under them, thus verifying in our experience that He is indeed good, and a “stronghold in the day of trouble, and He knoweth them that trust in Him.”

And how especially near is He felt to be in seasons of affliction, in moments of extremity, by all them that put their trust in Him. Ah! it is then that the everlasting Arms are felt to be underneath.

It is when the floods are permitted to lift up their voice and their waves, that these are favoured to

experience "The Lord on high to be mightier" for their help and deliverance, "than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea."

And O! how much, how very much, have we to be thankful for, in that at our advanced period of life, so comfortable a share of health and bodily ability is granted us, as also for the continued preservation of our mental powers. I trust there are times when our hearts, tendered under a sense thereof, are clothed with the feeling of gratitude and thankfulness, and of praise to our Heavenly Father, who giveth so richly to partake of His many mercies and blessings.

5th mo. 1st, 1st day. In our forenoon meeting our dear aged friend William Ashby was remarkably engaged in testimony, as he is often favoured to be; he also knelt in prayer. It is instructive and encouraging to witness how this beloved Friend appears to be raised up and strengthened to bear a living and faithful testimony to the Truth as it is in Jesus, as I have often thought, before being gathered to his heavenly home. "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing."

1866, 3rd mo. 19th. [Having been] confined to the bed and chamber many days, I had Alfred Carpenter, our medical attendant, to see me, under whose kind, judicious treatment, and with the most tender nursing care of my beloved and affectionate wife, it has pleased our Heavenly Father to permit me now to feel much recovered. My thus being laid by, I trust has been a time of some spiritual profit, some searching of heart, and renewal of best strength. Among other precious

portions brought to remembrance, that Scripture has, I trust, been realised in experience, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, because he trusteth in Thee."

And O how true it is, that in quietness and in confidence the Christian's strength is renewed. Yes, in proportion as the heart and mind is inwardly stayed and fixed on the Lord in quietness and in confidence, that a renewal of spiritual strength is experienced.

24th. Came down to breakfast, afterwards read the ciii. Psalm. It is, indeed, cause of thankfulness my being thus favoured with an increase of bodily strength; and O that I may daily experience a renewal thereof spiritually. "The Lord is good unto them that wait for Him, to the soul that seeketh Him."

1866, 9th mo. 19th. I went to the Kent Quarterly Meeting, held at Canterbury.

28th. We left Folkestone. We much enjoyed the quiet time spent there [for change of air], which I trust was beneficial, both mentally and bodily. In attending their little meeting while there, we were, I trust, helped in testimony suitable to the few assembled. Also when walking out, we had at times some interesting conversation with serious persons we occasionally met with.

1867, 4th mo. 2nd. Oh! the preciousness of near access to the throne of grace in prayer, in times of retirement when waiting upon the Lord. Such, I trust, was my favoured experience this forenoon.

4th. W. W., of Brading, in the Isle of Wight, made a call on us. His spirit was felt to be sweetly refreshing.

13th. The forty-eighth anniversary of our marriage. Surely there is renewed occasion, all unworthy and undeserving as we are of the many mercies and blessings

bestowed upon us, to put up our Ebenezer, saying, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us;" and again, "What shall we render?" &c.

5th mo. 31st. The Yearly Meeting concluded. My Wife and I attended most of the sittings, but were not at any of the committees. The meeting was largely attended, and notwithstanding the many weaknesses and shortcomings and serious innovations, an evidence was mercifully afforded that we are not a forsaken people, but that our Heavenly Father is still watching over us for good. Then how well it would be if as a people we were so humbled under a sense of our departure in so many ways from the simplicity, which the Truth as it is in Jesus ever leads into, as to be able to say, "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord;" and also be able individually to say with the Psalmist, "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep Thy commandments."

6th mo. 5th. Some near access, I trust, in prayer, in private retirement this morning; and during the day was favoured to enjoy much precious quiet.

1868, 12th mo. 14th. Oh! the blessedness of feeling daily the mind clothed with the spirit of prayer. I had a sweet time on the bended knee in the forenoon. And oh! the blessedness of knowing something of what I apprehend the apostle meant when he said, "Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." Not that we were to be on the bended knee of the body from morning until night, but that we should throughout the day live in the spirit of prayer, in a state of watchfulness unto prayer, inwardly feeling after the Divine Presence, the liftings up of the light of the Lord's countenance,

and in earnest and secret breathings for holy help and merciful preservation on every hand, and every way. Ah ! such as these know something of the blessed privilege of prayer, and under the constraining influences of heavenly love and peace have often, and at times often in the day, to bow the knee in vocal prayer, and in the retirement of their chamber and *elsewhere*, to pour forth their souls in solemn prayer and supplication to their Heavenly Father, in the Name and for the sake of His beloved Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

1870, 10th mo. 25th. T. F——, an interesting young man, not a member of our Society, came to tea with us. We enjoyed his company, and had some serious converse together.

10th mo. 28th. Last evening finished reading the memoranda left by the late I. H., including some extracts from the journal of her mother I. T., kindly lent to us for perusal by one of the family. The reading of it has been truly interesting and edifying, and my spirit sweetly tendered in marking the pureness of life and genuine piety, as manifested throughout ; and peaceful close of each. It has, I trust, tended to lead afresh into some searching of heart, giving me to feel my own nothingness, unworthiness, and many shortcomings. My dear wife has also shared with me in the profitable reading thereof.

1871, 4th mo. 13th. To-day is the fifty-second anniversary of our marriage. Surely we have great occasion afresh to commemorate the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father extended to us during our lengthened happy union, a period of time but few perhaps, comparatively speaking, are alike permitted to realise, enjoy, and share together in the blessings and privileges of a married life. Varied have been the trials, conflicts, and

exercises we have been partakers of ; yet through all, and under some close and heavy bereavements of beloved and precious children and grandchildren, the everlasting Arms have been felt to be underneath for our support ; yea, when the floods of affliction have lifted up their voice and their waves, the Lord on high hath proved Himself to be mightier for our help and deliverance than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea. So that now in our advanced years we have abundant cause to put up our Ebenezer, and say as heretofore, that “ Hitherto the Lord hath helped us.” I think we may each say that from the days of early childhood and youth, we have experienced His love and fear to be placed in our hearts, so that He who was our morning light, we reverently trust is now our evening song, our joy and rejoicing.

1872, 5th mo. 11th. Thirty-four years to-day since my much beloved friend John Barclay departed this life ; also that much beloved friend Anna M. Thorne, of America. How precious, yes always how precious, is the memory of them. “ The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.”

17th. “ Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”

The soul that is thus quickened and made alive unto God, feels the necessity of seeking day by day, and more often than the day, a renewal of spiritual strength, and for the fresh supply of that heavenly bread which nourishes the soul up unto eternal life ; and surely that day may be said to be a lost day in which something of this hunger and thirst after the bread and water of life is not felt and experienced,—this hunger and thirst after Christ and His righteousness, and some sense and feeling of His heavenly presence in the lifting up of the

light of His countenance upon us ; and though there may be and are times when for the trial of our faith and exercise of patience, the bread may be given us as by weight, and the water as by measure ; yet as faith and patience is abode in, the needful crumb and needful drop of water will not be withheld in the time of need, the ancient promise being realised and experienced—
 “Bread shall be given him ; his waters shall be sure.”

12th mo. 17th. To-day's post has brought us the affecting intelligence of the death of our beloved cousin John Marsh, of Dorking, in the eighty-fourth year of his age.

May the remembrance of his watchful, upright, and consistent walk, be so teaching to survivors as to quicken in them the desire to be alike strengthened by grace to follow him, as we may believe he endeavoured to follow Christ.

1873, 1st mo. 7th. To-day has brought us the affecting intelligence of the death of Richard Allen, of Newtown, Waterford. It was my privilege, I may say our privilege (my beloved wife being a sharer therein), to enjoy for many years an uninterrupted and abiding friendship with this our beloved, departed friend and brother in the Truth, and throughout, a lively interest in each other's best welfare ; and epistolary correspondence has been maintained between us, being, as we were, nearly united in spirit, and in the love and fellowship of the Gospel. “The memory of the just is blessed.”

7th mo. 3rd. Fourteen years to-day since our precious beloved daughter Hannah departed this life ; precious, indeed, is her memory. I trust I may say, as heretofore, that, “She being dead, yet speaketh.”

7th. We attended our Quarterly Meeting of ministers

and elders. We each had something to express in the meeting.

8th. I went to our Quarterly Meeting. Our dear friend Mary Ann Bayes paid an acceptable visit to the men's meeting of discipline.

[The diary was broken off soon after, and gives no account of his last visit to the seaside, in company with my dear mother and ourselves.]

SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS LAST DAYS.

MY FATHER appeared much benefitted by our visit to Margate. During the whole five weeks of our stay he was remarkably well, enjoying the fresh air and exercise greatly. But soon after our return the weather became autumnal, and in little more than a week he was laid up, having appeared to take a chill, which brought on congestion of the liver. He was ill about four weeks. For nearly two the expectation of recovery was dominant, and my beloved mother nursed him with calm cheerfulness. Sweet composure reigned in the house. I called in repeatedly, and observed his desire to get everything worldly off his mind, that he "might have nothing to think about." "You shouldn't let little things trouble you ; I seem to have done with time." He gave me a gentle hint to come as often as possible, "for we do not know how it may be from one day to another." "It seems hid from me whether I shall get about again ; if I do, I shall be thankful ; and if not, resigned."

Fourteen days before he died, I called in for an hour, which seemed to comfort him. He asked me to write a letter for him, and then took me quite by surprise with the following words, "If I pass away all will be well with me, I believe." I asked him if he felt that ? He

replied, "Of course I do. My Heavenly Father that visited me when a child is the same now. He had His eye upon me in the womb; he visited me from a child. I loved and feared Him from a child. I have found I have not followed cunningly devised fables,—it's the Inward Saving Grace—though it has not been my way, like many do, to make a great talk. I'm afraid many pass away unprepared, and their relations and friends think they are prepared. They must know something that I have known. Sometimes in the night I felt low, that I had no one to speak to, but I endeavour to bear it." I asked if he was pleased to see me? He answered, "I am now, and always pleased, night or day." He wondered his friends had not been to see him. I told him I had not given a very bad account of him. He said, "It's no use to mince the matter; I have never had such an illness before, to seem so near the close; my poor tongue," &c. I asked if he wanted to see my husband, who was from home? "Of course I do; George knows I want him to be with me at the close."

From that time I was with him night and day, with little exception (notwithstanding we had obtained a nurse), and the next evening my husband came, and also remained until the close. We all felt it a great privilege to wait on him. The calm, peaceful serenity which had been his portion through life, was doubly present now, and the feeling inspired in the hearts of all who were with him was, oh! that their latter end might be like his!

On hearing a letter read one day, he said, "So much about outward enjoyments, and nothing about the *inward life*; so much living in outward gratification, feeding and encouraging the earthly mind. It's one thing to *talk* about being prepared, but another *to be* prepared."

There's an inward guidance for us all ; we all know when we have not done what is right, and what we ought to do." " Let us try and be cheery ; we have known the Truth, and we love the Truth, and we know what the Truth is ; and the more we know of it, the more we see the beauty and excellency of it." " How people can settle down as they do in the world ! "

After the complaint seemed giving way, and his tongue beginning to clear, and our drooping hopes to revive, he said, " I like to look at your countenances ; it may not be long we shall look upon one another. I don't think you know how ill and weak I am." He wanted my husband to sit down with me by him, and said, " I have always loved quiet ; I enjoy it. I think we are alike for that, George and I. It's not in the much talking. When I was in the womb, the Lord had regard to me ; in my cradle He was my loving Father, my loving Saviour. I should wish my interment conducted in great simplicity ; no show ; no brass on the coffin. I hope you will have a nice opportunity after tea of *waiting* on the Lord ! " " I have so many kind nurses ; your attention could not be exceeded."

Two of his nieces coming in, he said, " I hope we shall all meet one day to sing the same song. We have all of us been preserved from childhood, have we not ? I dare say we have all fallen short of our duty, but what is past cannot be recalled, and the future is hidden from us—the present time only is ours. We have all a great work to do ; we must know the New Birth." My aunt, E. P. C., coming in soon after, he said to her, " I never could put up with anything superficial. It is an *inward work*. I have loved the Truth from a child. I have known what true Quakerism is. I have loved the Truth as it is in Jesus. Mine has been a close walk with the

Saviour. I have suffered much, according to my measure, at the state of our Society. There must be such a people. It's not what we profess, it's the Principle; it's nothing outward that will do. I was recorded a minister in 1818. Nearly all that knew me at that time are gone. I have known in my life so very many in our Society of the excellent of the earth; yes, *the excellent of the earth*. Many now have made mistakes of one kind or another, and gone more or less into the world." "I do not see how we can be right unless we dwell in love;" then quoting some texts on love, said, "How very beautiful the Scriptures are! The Spirit of the Saviour is all love, gentleness, compassion. If we are on the Rock we are in love, peace, gentleness, and joy in believing."

"Arrayed in robes of purest white
The crown immortal wears;
And numbered with the saints in light,
The palm of victory bears."

"*That's when we're gone.*"

He fondly recognised each face, saying, "What a favour it is I can see so clear!"

In the evening he said, "The prophet Ezekiel, what a wonderful man he was! If ever I get at the Scriptures again, how doubly I shall value them!" The next day, remaining in a critical state, he was cautioned not to talk much. He replied, "I don't want to talk. I don't want to hear what is passing. Wait and see if I get better. I seem to have nothing to do with the world. To know you are all near me, and caring for me!"

In the afternoon, being alone with him, I heard him praying in a low voice; but not being near, could only hear it in broken sentences, "how unworthy, how

unfaithfully I have served Thee * * * all my sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ * * * If it be Thy will, oh ! Heavenly Father, to spare me a little longer, I trust my heart * * * or be with me in the last extremity and support." The next evening I heard him again, and these were the words, "Thou knowest, oh ! Lord, how poor and weak I am brought, but hitherto Thy Hand has sustained me, and I believe the everlasting arms will be underneath, and I believe Thou canst raise me up if it be Thy will.—I thank Thee that I do not suffer great pain. And to think my little grandson is so kept ; dear boy, I do love him ! "

My husband's mother coming in, he said, "My dear love to her ; I'm too weak to talk ; so many kind friends !" She replied, "And One kinder than all." He said, "Oh ! yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes."

He said to me one day, "I don't want the meeting to say anything about me ; my life has been my testimony."

One day when the doctor was here, my father said, "I know him well, and feel him like a brother. I believe he will do his best for me." The doctor answered, "And you are doing the best for yourself by your quiet, passive conduct." Father replied, "I always have desired to dwell in the sweetness and gentleness of the Saviour's spirit."

He said, "I think it will be a miracle if I am raised up again ; but miracles have not ceased. The Lord could raise me up." He also said several days back, that if he recovered he did not wish "there should be a great deal of talk about illness, but rather dwell on the mercy of recovery, and talk of better things." "I have thought if my life was spared, I should like to pen a little how sweetly I was visited from a child."

In the night I was awoke by his melodious voice in wrestling prayer on his own account, concluding with "And oh ! that my darling boy may be kept as we desire him to be kept while his mother is away." Soon after he said, "I don't want to hear any more about houses made with men's hands," referring to that expression in an epistle "a House in the Heavens." The next morning, after giving directions about some of his things, he wished to be quiet ; and then turning the 8th and 9th verses of the 55th of Isaiah into a prayer, offered an humble supplication for the light of the Lord's countenance and presence.

He had become so weak, he often felt unable to talk ; and one day said, "I don't think it likely I can be raised up. I would not have you look to it."

One who came in said she hoped he had a bright prospect either way ? He nodded yes, saying, "It would be a sad thing if it were not so, would it not ?"

Once when we were giving him something, he said, "How everything is provided ! Even the sparrows are not forgotten."

One day he said to one who was attending on him, "If I get about again, I hope I should be even more careful of my walk. "Set a watch, oh ! Lord, before my mouth ; keep the door of my lips." "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

About eight days before the close he began to suffer with such intense exhaustion, as though he could not hold out longer, and asked the doctor if it would not be better to let him pass away undisturbed, desiring we might be quiet, and we should see when he passed away. For one day and two nights we kept much upon the watch,

his end seemed so near; but again he revived to our great consolation for six days more. It was during this two days when he could swallow nothing, except a little grape juice part of the time, when his departure seemed so near, that a friend came down from London to see him, to whom he said, "This is a proving time; it is wonderful how I have been supported;" and related some incidents in his life, adding, "I don't want the meeting to say anything about me. I have been a poor unworthy servant, but I believe I often divided the word aright." Another friend came in, and remarked, "It is a reality." Father replied, "Yes, I have often told Friends that nothing short of the reality, nothing short of the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, will do in a dying hour."

He wished his love to be given to all his relatives and friends, particularly to all the friends belonging to Croydon Meeting.

After the second night's anxious watching above referred to, he said, "I see so clear, it seems almost as if I could read." He was asked if he would like to hear a Psalm read? He replied, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I have not wanted;" soon after added, "If you like to sit down and read a Psalm." Upon which we all sat down, and the book was given to me. Father said, "The floods have lifted up." While I was finding the xciii, he raised his voice, and said, "The Lord on high *is mightier* than the noise of many waters." Having read that short psalm, he said, "He shall cover thee with His feathers," upon which I read the xci. Then he repeated the two first verses of ciii, and said, "I hope you will often read the 103rd Psalm, it is so beautiful."

After this he said, "Some will be sorry at my

removal; but there will be other ministers raised up; there *must* be such a people." "God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him; we dwell in love, and we dwell in God." "How true it is Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee, because—because—because—he trusteth in Thee."

In the afternoon my child was brought for the last time to see him, and he would have the young woman in to acknowledge her kind care over him in my absence. Then I heard him in a sweet voice say,

"Oh! God, Thou moves in a mysterious way,
Thy wonders to perform,"—

I then went near, and when he saw me he said, "I want to say,—

"Thou, oh God! moves in a mysterious way,
Thy wonders to perform,
Thou plants Thy footsteps in the sea,
And rides upon the storm."

I should like to say it all, but am not able."

He said he hoped dear mother would not sit down and mourn, and that I should not fret, adding, "Thou wilt be supported; it will be a cause of rejoicing when I am gone. I hope this will long be an open house for you and your mother on first days."

Four days before the close, two of his oldest friends came a long distance to visit him. To them he said, "I am not altered; I am a true Quaker, a true Friend; there *must* be a living people; there must be *such* a people. Ah! they have slidden off the foundation, and are building on the sand, and they will find it so when it is too late. I have been preserved in patience. I

have fought a good fight, according to my measure. I have fought a good fight with the measure of grace bestowed. I have been helped to keep the faith in Him, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross ; yes, endured the cross."

They told him he had been a father in the Truth to them, and that they loved him for the Truth's sake—that they met in the Truth. Father replied, "Yes, and we lived in the Truth ; we walked in the Truth. Many a little one in secret have I cherished ; oh ! yes, you know all about me." "I feel nothing but love to all—love to all. I swim in the ocean of love. The everlasting Arms are underneath."

"Dear Lydia and John ! (Barclay.) I did love them so dearly ; they were very near and dear to me. I always remember the day he died ; and precious Anna Thorne died the same day. It was like mother and son going to Heaven together."

They expressed the hope of seeing him again, if consistent with the Lord's will. Father said, "Everything is in that. I always desire everything, if consistent with His holy will."

One of them said, "He that was thy morning light is now thy evening song." Father assented to that, and said, "He was my light in my childhood. I have loved the Lord from a child, and my Saviour has loved me—from my boyhood—all my life. A great age, in my eighty-fifth year."

From that time his weakness was so very great, he said but little. He, however, never once, that I heard, expressed anxiety to be gone, as he had the previous week. Now and then humbly appealed to his Heavenly Father that he knew how weak he was ; and the last afternoon said he hoped patience would hold

out; and seeing George's mother, who came to sit quietly in the room, in a low voice signified his pleasure "to have us all near him."

His weakness increased greatly, but he was able to speak almost to the last, never losing consciousness, and passed away very gently, according to his petition, that the Lord would be "with him in the last extremity and support;" and truly as He was with my father, He also condescended to be with us in the unspeakable trial of parting with one *so dear*. And sincerely do I bless and praise Him for His gracious dealings with my beloved parent, and for His loving-kindness in granting the fervent desire of my heart, to be permitted to be with him whenever his call should come.

Then let it be an incitement to us all to cleave with fuller purpose of heart to the Lord, whose goodness to us *far* exceeds our devotedness to Him, and who can fulfil His promise when least expected and least deserved, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee; and when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned."

The interment took place the week following in the Friends' burial-ground at Croydon Meeting House—when a large company assembled, the weather being fine, and it was a solemn and instructive occasion.

P. PITT.

The following unlooked-for testimony (inserted by permission,) was received the day before the interment, from the writer, who was unable to be present with us on that occasion :—

A few words of Testimony concerning my beloved and ever sympathising Friend, the late John Finch Marsh ; who died at Croydon on the 7th of 10th mo., 1873 ; aged 84 years.

“ And of Zion it shall be said,
 . . . “ *This Man* was born there ; ”
 That Jerusalem which is from above
 Was Mother unto him :
 Whose peace he prayed for,
 And true weal he sought,
 From childhood to old age :
 In labours and in love abundant.
 A simple character, sweet, solid, and sincere ;
 Enlarged and beautified by grace,
 And heavenly-mindedness ;
 Abounding in the love of God,
 And in the Spirit of Christ Jesus,
 His Lord and Saviour.

In joy of hope ;—blest confidence of faith ;—
 Reverence, humility, and godly fear ;—
 In tribulations patient, and to Truth sincere,
 He lived : and so he died :
 Reposing in that Name,
 Than which, no other saves,—
 Jesus Immanuel !

D. P.

EXTRACTS FROM SOME OF HIS LETTERS.

Ipswich, 9th Mo., 1811.

When made alive to a sense of that which is really good, is it not then that the Enemy of the souls' salvation endeavours to entangle the feet of our poor minds, and with his subtle persuasions deceives us, so that if we are not constantly on our watch, there is great danger of our slipping aside; but if we are willing to come under the forming hand of the Lord, willing to be made what he would have us to be, waiting from season to season to know his will concerning us, that we may yield simple obedience to all his requirings made known to us in the secret of the soul;—if we are found thus faithfully following on to know the Lord in the way of his leadings, we shall assuredly know a being clothed with the armour of his righteousness, and have for a shield of defence, his salvation; thus shall we be enabled to withstand the fiery darts of the wicked one, and overcome him in all his assaults.

To his friend Hannah Evans.

Ipswich, 10th Mo., 1811.

Ah my dear friend, how is my heart, yea all that is within me made to rejoice, when I see or hear of any of my young friends shewing themselves to be the disciples

of Christ, by taking up the cross daily and following him. O that the number of these may daily and hourly increase, is the sincere desire of my soul.

I was delighted with that portion of thy letter where thou says, "there are some in this city who have parted with considerable of this world's gratifications to get on in their journey." May none of us who are making a profession of religion fall short of the power thereof, but may we be diligent in the examining individually ourselves, in order to know how the work of religion goes on in our hearts; whether the day's work keeps pace with the day. Religion being an every day work, does not, will not allow any of us to remain idle; so that if we are truly desirous of making happy progress therein, we must not neglect to retire inwardly and examine ourselves. I often think of these words of the Psalmist, "Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still," and wish it was more my practice than it is; sensible how necessary it is for us all daily to examine ourselves,—to cast up our accounts and see how they stand between God and our immortal souls.

To his Cousin Joseph M.

Ipswich, 12th Mo., 1811.

Dear Joseph,

On looking a little with an eye of concern at the situation in which thou art, perhaps, unavoidably placed, and considering how exposed a one it is, particularly for young persons,—I have been a little thoughtful for thee, with sincere desires for thy spiritual welfare, that thou mayest be preserved from the many temptations that may continually be presented to thee from the different

companies thou art in ; but remember it is no sin to be tempted, the sin lieth in yielding to the tempter. No doubt thou feels at times the delicacy of thy situation, when, after the business of the day is over, thou retires to some Inn, where I expect thou generally meets with other travellers, and perhaps it is customary to take your refreshments together. Now it may be seldom thou meets on thy journey with a traveller that is a member of our society, so that being a good deal shut out from the company of Friends, thou may, if not very watchful, be drawn by degrees from that simplicity which I trust thou desires to walk in—even that sweet simplicity which Truth leads its followers into. Be concerned then, dear cousin, continually to watch over thyself,—watch over all thy thoughts, words, and actions, sincerely desiring that what thou does, it may be to the glory of God. Now suffer me affectionately to advise thee to be particularly careful in the ordering of thy conversation, loving to use plainness of speech and behaviour towards all men, keeping much silence ; and then I believe thou wilt be favoured more clearly to behold the beauty of that simplicity, which all who walk in the path and way of self-denial rejoice in. Well may we rejoice in that which preserves us from following or seeking after the fashions, customs, and manners of the world,—well may we rejoice in those things which are truly excellent and lead to peace : “ The ways of the Lord are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace.” I now feel desirous of reviving in thy remembrance, the sweet counsel thou received from thy dear mother, the evening previous to thy setting off on a journey of business into the west of England, in 1st mo., 1810, and may tell thee the desire of my mind then was, that thou might frequently call to mind her words, in

that exposed situation of life; and it is now my sincere desire that what I have written may prove acceptable; and should what I write in the least degree encourage thee to persevere in the path of true humility, my end is answered. Be concerned to dwell low, for in the valley of humility there is peace and safety.

I think before I draw to a conclusion I shall feel most easy to say, Be diligent in attending meetings. It may so happen sometimes, when on thy journeys, that thou cannot reach a meeting on first day, yet I trust thy endeavours to spend thy first days among Friends is not small; but I feel desirous to say, Labour to attend meetings often; think it no hardship at times to ride a few miles out of thy way for that purpose; also on a week day thou wilt not find thy time so spent to be lost, but on the contrary, if thy endeavours are sincere, thou wilt feel these seasons to be refreshing, and often cause to acknowledge it was good for thee, thy being there. "Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thy heart; wait, I say, on the Lord."

I have not written this letter with a view to discourage thee at all in thy situation, only considering it to be more exposed than most, felt desirous of saying for thy encouragement thus much—Keep thy proper place, let thy conduct at all times be exemplary, remembering example speaks louder than words; then I believe, dear cousin, thou wilt be of service in encouraging others to persevere in the path of wisdom and virtue. With dear love, I remain thy affectionate cousin,

J. F. MARSH.

To his cousin Hannah Morris.

I was much pleased with that part of thy letter where thou reverted to those days of our childhood which we were favoured to spend together, when in the simplicity of our minds, which were tenderly and precious visited with the overshadowings of Divine love, we were led to delight ourselves in the most profitable way of retirement; that of sitting together in silence, or as we used to call it, and as I think it may be said, holding a meeting.

Those days we spent together, and those hours thus happily spent were made precious to us; the recollection of which will I think at all times prove profitable and instructive to our minds. I believe had I cherished more the tender impressions then made on my mind,—had I been more faithful in attending to the pointings of truth in my inward parts, as I grew in years, I should at the present day have experienced a greater progress in my spiritual journey than at this season is the case.

Deptford, 1st day evening, 6th mo. 27th, 1813.

To his friend Joseph Messer.

Colchester, 11th Mo., 1813.

My dear Joseph,

Thou hast been the frequent companion of my thoughts by day, and at night on my bed have I remembered thee, and am thankful in continuing to have that feeling respecting thee, which when writing to thee before, think I expressed it was my desire to experience an increase of; a feeling which language can but faintly express, it being better felt than described in words or writing; yet by endeavouring sometimes to express

something of this inward feeling, it not only affords relief and satisfaction to the mind or minds thus exercised, but often is permitted to afford encouragement, and prove a strength to those on whose account the heart is thus feelingly engaged ; which while it breathes in secret for its own preservation, a language like that of David when he said, “ Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer,” it also craves the preservation of others, and that the same language may in sincerity be theirs, yea, the daily desire of each of our hearts to be enabled so carefully to watch over our thoughts, words and actions, that what we think, speak, and do, may be to the glory of God. If this, my beloved young friend, be our happy experience, we shall exceedingly rejoice in being preserved in his fear.

How animating and encouraging is the language, “ Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me ; and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.”

Let us then be encouraged to become increasingly watchful and serious ; for I do believe the more this becomes our experience, the more cheerful we shall feel in ourselves, and liberty to be so with others ; and let us not be ashamed when we do not feel at liberty for conversation, to sit silently before men ; for it is sometimes the case when in company, we feel ourselves so shut up as not to be able to enter much into conversation ; and this may sometimes happen when we feel desirous to be conversant and to appear more cheerful. It may then be painful to us thus to appear, and difficult to withdraw ourselves from company, yet I think it profitable for us thus to feel, and that this stripped state is wisely ordered, not only for our own instruction,

but also for the instruction of others. Such is at times the low stripped state of my mind, that I am more fit to be in the fields, or my chamber alone, than in company. The words of the prophet Jeremiah have been remembered by me, and think from degree of experience I may speak the same language.

“It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone, and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.” I do not understand this sitting alone and keeping silence, to be expressive of anything gloomy. No, no. But of sweet profitable retirement, wherein the mind becomes more and more weaned from earthly things, and inwardly seeks those that are heavenly; for nothing short of that which is of a pure and heavenly nature can satisfy the waiting mind. It is good for the sons and daughters of men to sit much alone, keeping silence; and for some of us frequently to sit solitary in families. Now my dear Joseph, to endeavour to express a little more of the feeling I have had on thy account, as mentioned in the early part of my letter; what if I say it seems to be accompanied with the belief that if thou faithfully attend to the pointings of truth in thy inward parts, minding the day of little things, of apparently small requirings, if thou art willing to bow with fear and humility under the forming hand of the Lord, fully resigning thyself wholly to his disposal, sincerely desiring to become what he would have thee to be; if thou stand faithful in all things, he would prepare and qualify thee for a labourer in his vineyard, in which there would be found employment for all, if there was but a willingness to enter in when the invitation is given; a willingness to obey the call. Though all are

not made use of in the same way, yet there is something for each one to do ; and happy are they who humbly and patiently wait to know the Master's will, and faithfully obey it. Their reward is indeed sweet peace of mind.

I sincerely hope to do no harm, or hurt thee in the least degree by thus writing ; but I trust thou can clearly understand me, and see that I long to encourage thee to be faithful in that which appears to be required at thy hands, to mind and walk in that path clearly marked out for thee to walk in, whether it may be in a silent or a more public one. Far be it from me to say anything that would tend to bring forth anything like unripe fruit, or keep back that which is already ripe. How different is the feeling attending the mind after anything done in the will, &c., of the creature, from that which is done in apprehending it to be a divine requiring. The reward of the latter is sweet peaceful quiet of mind. My mind has been at times sweetly impressed and instructed with this language ; " Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it : except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain."

To his wife, while visiting her mother at Tottenham, for a few days.

142, Whitechapel, 2nd of 9th Mo., 1819.

My dear Hannah,

* * * * I wish thee to partake as largely of the refreshing breezes, by walking out, as thy strength will allow. How much I should enjoy to share them with thee : even here the air is very reviving, mornings and evenings cool and bracing. Dont be too anxious

about me, so as to interrupt any intervals of retirement, or moments of peaceful quiet that may be afforded for instruction, and the renewal of thy spiritual strength.

It will be comforting to thee to know that yesterday was a cheering day in two senses. In the morning, little or nothing to do in the shop, but my mind permitted to enjoy a feeling of sweet quiet, free from anxiety. Such seasons are indeed favoured ones, and ought to be rightly valued and improved by us:—seasons wherein the mind may be rightly encouraged, strengthened, and afresh animated to hold on our way in the path of required duty, and lay hold of the consoling language, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.” In the afternoon and evening had a succession of customers, which rendered the afternoon scene very lively.

Croydon, 31st of 7th Mo., 1834.

My beloved daughter Hannah,

Thy recent welcome letters have been comforting and interesting to us, and much do we hope thou may continue to derive benefit from the privileged opportunity of being under the very kind care of thy aunt E. Whitehead. It is pleasant to us to believe thou art sensible of thy many advantages, and that the secret desire lives in thy heart to be made thankful and grateful therefor, and that there is at times (and oh! may it be daily, yea hourly) a feeling after strength and ability to be a very good girl; this is what thy beloved parents so much crave for thee and thy sister, and if happily with increasing days or years, this endeavour to

be good becomes your favoured experience, and we favoured to be spared to you, our hearts would from time to time have abundant occasion to feel thankful unto our Heavenly Father, for this His rich blessing, yea, to leap within us for very joy. What a choice gift to be endowed with, is a grateful spirit, a thankful, humble heart and mind; and how needful it is that we watch and cherish the tender buddings thereof, especially in very early life, for none can be too young, or begin too soon to be made sensible of how much we owe, and are indebted unto Him who created us; and to be led very frequently in a similar enquiry with that of the Psalmist, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits towards me?"

Croydon, 23rd of 3rd Mo., 1839.

My beloved Priscilla,

As thy dear mother and sister will now be writing, I seem to have little more to pen than the insertion of my very dear love, which I do in this way, hoping it may meet thee well, and comfortable and happy, and in the continued endeavour to be a good girl [at school]. Remember it is a favourite motto of mine, "To be good is to be happy," and I trust it is also of my dear P.'s, and that she does at times strive her very best to be so, and that good desires are often raised in thy mind; may these be strengthened and encouraged; and in proportion, my dear girl, as thou keeps near to, and makes way for, that which visits in secret, reproving for that which is evil, and inclining to that which is good, wilt thou come to experience preservation on every hand, and strength to overcome and

resist temptation, and know thy heart to be made clean, and to be kept clean, by continually living in the divine fear—the fear to offend thy Heavenly Father in thought, word, or deed.

“ Grace is a plant where’er it grows,
Of pure and heavenly root ;
But fairest in the youngest shews
And yields the sweetest fruit.”

To a Friend.

11th Mo. 1837.

Thou continues to have a place in our affectionate remembrance, and we trust the feeling of love and sympathy still flows toward thee as one of the true mourners, and may we not say tribulated followers of the Lamb, and of which blessed company we desire to be counted worthy to be numbered ; and to whom the language of the dear Redeemer may be not unfrequently applicable, for their encouragement and strengthening—“ Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Ah ! it is indeed a day and time of sadness with many of us who are favoured to see and feel the low state of things amongst us as a people ; and how can it well be otherwise, if we are rightly led into feeling and suffering for and with the suffering seed :—but some might be ready to say—Why so cast down ? Why go so mourning on your way ? Hope for better days, for brighter times. And so I hope we do, and are at times enabled to lift up our heads in hope ; but we are not prepared, neither have we any desire to exchange our mourning for any false joy, but rather to seek for ability “ in patience to possess our souls,” and for strength patiently to endure the exercises and

tribulations of our day;—not shrinking from suffering, but endeavouring to be found in pure resignation, standing in our right and proper allotment.

If this be the engagement of our minds, may we not believe, and humbly trust, that preservation will be experienced even to a hair's breadth? What encouragement then there is for us to continue to hold on our way, nothing doubting,—endeavouring in childlike simplicity to do in the present strength and ability given, what our hands may find to do; not looking out to others, but simply minding and doing our own business. And now, dear friend, it seems with me to say, (and as time is swiftly passing away) Use all diligence in endeavouring to complete the work of thy day. My wish is simply to encourage thee to faithfulness in that, which to thy own mind, may be made clear; yet believing the prospect of visiting Friends in Ireland has long been before thee, and having myself recently returned from that land, where I was over ten weeks, I think I may say that there is room for such labourers as thyself, and if the concern continues to rest weightily with thee, do not seek to put it aside: there may be some other few debts of love to be paid off in our own land, as an evening sacrifice. Dear S. F., of Clonmel, united with me as companion in this engagement, a very precious minded young man; we were remarkably drawn towards each other during our last Y. M., which he attended, though we had but little of each other's company, so as to get much personal acquaintance; but a short time before my leaving home, I received a letter from him, expressing his feelings as to accompanying me. We met in Dublin, and parted there, and on board the packet.—I believe his dedication of heart to the work was accepted of the Lord, and that it will be blessed to him. We

were at all the meetings in that nation, with the exception of one very small one, (Tullamore,) but we called and sat a little time with two young men who reside there. In passing along, many were the seasons of proving, of conflict, and exercise, yet I trust we were, from time to time, made sensible of the renewing and fresh extension of heavenly love, and mercifully favoured to experience the good Shepherd to be near to comfort, to strengthen and support in the time of need. We met with great kindness from friends. I am ready to think that, perhaps few who have visited that nation, have left more with the flowing of love and affectionate desire for their present and future happiness than myself. On my return home, the feeling of a peaceful poverty and quietude of mind has been, and is, my favoured portion. Since then, which was on the 5th of last month, I have only appeared once in testimony in our own meeting—my mind too, since my return, seems at times in heaviness under the sense and feeling of the low state of things in our own land. O! the mixture, the mixture we seem to be in!—when will this people be redeemed from and out of all mixture? I trust many more shall be strengthened and enabled to bear a faithful and noble testimony to the preciousness of the truth as it is in Jesus.

30th of 8th Mo., 1838.

My beloved Friend, S. F.

Some of us have indeed sustained a great loss in the removal of our late dearly beloved Friend and brother in the Truth, John Barclay. I seem incapable of setting forth his loss, to me, as an individual, whose sweet

society it was my privilege richly to enjoy for many years; and by whose pious example, watchful deportment and humble walking, my heart was often deeply instructed; perhaps I go not too far if I say, it was impossible (at least one's own fault if it were so) to be in his company without being instructed in some way, either by his conversation or otherwise. He was one with whom I had shared no common intimacy, and often did we take sweet counsel together, and walk unto the house of the Lord in company; yea, and knew what it was at times "to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Had I the pen of a ready writer, how feelingly might I bear my testimony in writing,* to the memory of this beloved brother, similar to the many borne by the cotemporaries of Isaac Penington, viz., by George Fox and others, as prefixed to the 1st vol. of I.P.'s works. But oh! how is the loss made up! how fully the mind satisfied in the consoling belief "that he is well in the Lord, and in peace with him through the Lord Jesus Christ,—that through redeeming love and mercy he is now entered into the joy of his Lord, and into his Master's rest." The Church too, how great her loss in this our day, by the removal, may I not say, of one of her most upright pillars and brightest ornaments. What I have written is by no means intended as in any way to extol the creature, far otherwise,—but with reference to that Power who made him what he was, and which same divine Power is at work, and will continue to work in the hearts of Thousands. The date of thy last letter is memorable as being that on which he died, 11th of 5th Mo. having about three days previous

* My father did afterwards perform this, as may be seen in p. viii. and ix. of the Introduction to the "Selections from the Letters and Papers of J. B."

entered his 42nd year, near the age of the notable Apologist [Robert Barclay], who died also in the 42nd year of his age.

My beloved young friend, W. H.

How tenderly do I feel for those, who in the day of the Lord's power, are made willing to yield obedience to his requirings—to bow the neck to the yoke of Christ, deny self, take up the cross daily and follow him. And how do I desire the safe progress of these, that nothing may be permitted to stumble them, or induce them to seek an easier way,—“For the way of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death.”

Warwick, 2nd of 12th Mo., 1843.

My beloved friend, W. M.

Although I have not earlier acknowledged thy acceptable lines, dated the 8th ult., which were forwarded to me here in due course, I have not felt the less interested about thee, or unmindful of thy important movements in prospect. It was comforting to know, and kind of thee so early to inform me, that thou wast made willing to spread thy concern before Friends, and that thou wast so freely liberated by them, believing as I do that it is a right concern, a work whereunto the Great Master has called thee, and who will, I believe, as faithfulness is abode in, strengthen to perform that which He may require at thy hands. O how great the privilege to be employed in His service, and of being in any way made

use of in the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness in the earth, and what cause of rejoicing when a brother here and a brother there is raised up in this our low day, who, in the day of the Lord's power, are made willing and obedient in answering His call, resigning their hearts to follow on to know Him in the way of His leadings and requirings. O then beloved friend, may'st thou be strengthened to hold on thy way and continue to experience that preservation and safe guidance which I believe thou hast hitherto known, and which will not be withheld while thou seeks to be kept humble and watchful, little and lowly, having thine eye single unto the Lord, and thine heart simple, trusting in Him, not seeking or wanting great things for thyself, but be content with such manifestation of His power and strength as He may see best to furnish thee with from day to day, and from hour to hour; thus wilt thou be prepared both to do and to suffer His will.

O the need, the especial need there is for those who go forth on the Lord's errands, to wait for clearness, to know when to speak and when to keep silence, believing that the service of the poor instrument is often to example in silence. Ah! this is sometimes humbling to the creaturely part that would be active and doing something, as well as disappointing to that in some whose expectations may be much outward. But do not misunderstand me, I would have none keep silence when the command is to speak, neither have any to speak when commanded to be silent, but would have each one wait on their gift, and be careful day by day to use in faith, the present offered strength, though at times it may seem to be in weakness; then I believe the strength of such will be increased, for true it is that to use strength is to gain strength. But why write thus to thee,

dear William, I am not anticipating thee as one going before thy guide, or running without being sent, but to one young in the ministry and much favoured of the Lord, much desiring in the love I have for thee, and the unity I have in the exercise of thy gift, thy safety and preservation every way, and that thou mayest indeed be valiant for the Truth in this thy day, wholly devoted and given up in heart to serve Him who in the riches of His love and mercy has given thee to see and follow the things that belong to thy peace, and engaged thy heart to invite others in His name to come, taste and see for themselves, how good He the Lord is.

Croydon, 7th of 9th Mo. 1846.

My dear Friend L.W.

I believe that in writing as well as in speaking, the watch is alike needful, that our words be few. Some more than others have the talent or gift this way, as well as for conversation. I do not consider that I have either, but for the most part feel myself to be under the restraining influence in these particulars, so that oftener than has been the case with me, I believe I ought to have sat in company as one dumb, as it were, with silence—also in writing I cannot at any time and any how take the pen and converse that way. So many are the claims on me, that I cannot attempt a continued correspondence with many that I love and feel interested in, and should be glad at times to salute in this way. Yet, whether at home or abroad, alone or in company, I trust I am not altogether an idle spectator, or indifferent to mark what is passing around me, and especially is my

mind involved in the feeling of deep interest on account of our poor Society, yet still a highly favoured and interesting People, notwithstanding our degeneracy.

In the quietness of the Tent in these troublous times, there seems to me peculiar safety ; not that thereby a shrinking should be encouraged, from shewing ourselves and openly confessing on whose side we are ; but rather that in the stillness, in quietness and in confidence, a renewal of strength may be experienced—that away from the noise, tumult and activity of the people, we may the more clearly see and know our own individual state and standing, as also to have some clear sense of the real state and condition of things, and distinctly understand the word of command to us as individuals, to do or to leave undone. In this way strength will be given us for whatsoever the hand findeth to do ; yea, and not only to do, but also to suffer for the precious cause sake ; and patience granted to endure with meekness such portion of fiery trial as may be permitted to come upon us.

It seems to me especially important that those who are given to see and feel deeply the state of things, that they keep as it were a double watch over themselves, that so they may be preserved from doing anything in the haste and zeal of their own spirits, in putting forth their hands in the desire to help the good cause, and for the bettering of things. But rather may these seek in patience to possess their souls. Then I believe deliverance will be wrought for them by that same divine Power which hath already overturned, and will yet overturn, overturn : and oh ! that it may continue to be so, until all that may be comparable to the dross and the tin, and the reprobate silver be purely purged away from among this people. Ah ! then let us seek to be found

watchful, minding the stepping stones, then shall we be enabled to step more, and act as the needs be for it may be seen and felt.

I think I can, dear friend, a little enter into feeling with thee, and with thy dear brothers, under the varied conflicts and exercises that attend your path. I believe it is not all that can understand you, nor how it is that you should seem to be so led in this and the other particular. Yet it is not for you to be perplexed in mind as to what may be said and thought about you by others, but your present and future duty and business is, in simplicity and faith, to obey that still small voice which intelligibly speaks in your hearts, saying "Follow me." May you each be strengthened to obey its gentle leadings and guidings in all things.

To E. M.

It is good to consider and feel ourselves only as day labourers,—as those who must give an account for the work of each day, and for the right occupation of the gift of Time. Surely the due consideration of this is calculated to lead to the feeling of the importance of doing the day's work in the day-time, and of spending each day as though it were to be our last day. So should we experience a sweet and wholesome rest both to mind and body, realizing spiritually and naturally the scripture text, "The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much." Also when the head is resting on the pillow at night, how precious to feel the language of the heart to be on this wise, "I will both lay me down in peace and sleep, for thou Lord only makest me to dwell in safety." While thus writing, I

am sensible of many short-comings, and far from ranking myself among the number of the diligent labourers ; yet I trust a willingness attends my mind to do that little my feeble hands may find to do, and the desire to be strengthened both to do and to suffer the will of our Heavenly Father. We may also be instructed and treasure up as a profitable watchword, the belief that "They also serve who only stand and wait."

Croydon, 20th of 11th Mo., 1849.

My beloved Friend,

Thy acceptable few lines dated the 28th ultimo, came duly to hand, and very pleasant was it to my feelings to be so held in affectionate remembrance. Our love is mutual, and whether it be evinced more or less in the way of outward communications, we shall, I trust, be as epistles written in each other's hearts. We read that in ancient days "They that feared the Lord spake often one to another," and so it is now, that His children and people who love and fear Him, and that think upon His name, speak often one to the other ; and great is the privilege and blessing when such are so situated and circumstanced as frequently to associate together in heavenly converse ; and when it is otherwise with them, so as that they may seldom see each other face to face, yet are they brought inwardly near, and led in spirit to salute each other as fellow pilgrims in the tribulated way, as disciples of the same Lord, as servants of the same Master. These having enlisted under His banner, the Captain of their salvation ; having given their hearts to serve the Lord, are led from one degree of strength to another ; yea, led on conquering and to conquer,—so

that they have again and again to acknowledge and say, "The right hand of the Lord is exalted, the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly."

Mayest thou my beloved brother be strengthened and encouraged to hold on thy way, in that path and way cast up for thee to walk in, and in which through mercy thou hast been enabled to take some straight and safe steps; may nothing impede or interrupt thy progress therein, nothing move thee from the stedfastness of thy faith in Christ, and the simplicity of the truth as it is in him. Let neither the fear, nor the praise of man be a means of prevention to thy standing firm in thy allotment, and filling that rank in righteousness designed for thee,—being unmoveable, mayest thou according to thy measure be found, always abounding in the work of the Lord.—Ah! be not afraid or ashamed to appear singular when the needs be calls for it,—when it is needful to stand with boldness for the cause of Truth.

Croydon, 5th of 8th Mo., 1850.

My beloved Friend, R. B. B.

Love is indeed the badge of discipleship, and how strengthening are the words of our blessed Saviour, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." And again, the testimony of a beloved Apostle, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." Ah how precious is that love which flows one towards the other in the hearts of those who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity. How sweet the fellowship those enjoy who seek to follow Him in the regeneration, and walk in newness of life; who by obedience to the

teachings of His grace and good Spirit, evidence that they do aspire after unsullied purity of life,—these as they keep near to, and follow the pure leadings of Truth, are given to see eye to eye, and understand what it is to walk by the same rule, and to mind the same thing,—these hold sweet communion in spirit together, being also permitted at times to sit together as in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,—their minds thus clothed with love and sweetness, they cannot well do other than endeavour to encourage one another to persevere on their pilgrimage journey, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh forth the praises of Him who hath called, and in mercy still calls out of darkness into His marvellous light; and in the overflowing of their cup, and under the constraining influence of His love, are engaged to invite others to come, taste and see that the Lord is good; and as liberty is felt for it, to tell of what He hath done for their souls.

Thy allusion to our outward parting when I saw thee off in the railway carriage from Croydon, was a comfort to me. It was a trial to my feelings, the parting from one I so dearly love, especially so, as the time of our being together by ourselves was so short and limited, that my heart and mind did not get that vent, did not obtain that full relief desired. But the excitement, &c. of attending a Yearly Meeting, does in measure deprive of that quiet enjoyment of the company of one's friends, and which those of one heart, and one mind, seem so to require. Had time allowed us a season of quiet alone before we separated, it might have afforded me some relief to have bent the knee in vocal supplication and thanksgiving.

To an acknowledged Minister.

1854.

* * * * I think I may further say that mine eye often affecteth my heart, in beholding how for the most part, the children of this people turn aside, apparently slighting their many privileges ; and how especially does it appear amongst the children of those in the station of Minister and Elder ; that when some such are liberated to travel on Truth's account, I seem ready to query how far their own hands are sufficiently clear of their dear children, and of their houses and homes, as to go forth on the solemn errand of visiting the Churches,—for surely I think the hands of such must feel weakened by their dear children, and in many instances by the undue and unrestrained liberty they themselves allow in their children and families, so as not to be prepared with that honesty and acceptance to counsel others in the way of the cross, the path of self-denial. I might add more, but now conclude, and in that love in which I have written, I remain thy affectionate friend,

JOHN F. MARSH.

To his Medical Attendant.

Dear Friend,

As absence from home prevented my seeing thee when thou last called, I am best satisfied to express my feeling of thankfulness, for thy kind judicious treatment in my recent indisposition, which under the Divine blessing has been the means of my regaining a comfortable share of bodily health and strength.

I may also say that during thy little visits at my bedside and chamber, the feeling of much brotherly love

seemed to flow in my heart towards thee ; and in the continued feeling thereof my desire is, that if consistent with the will of our Heavenly Father, thy useful life may be prolonged, not only for the help and relief of thy fellow mortals from bodily pain, disease and suffering, but especially through submission to the powerful operation and workings of saving grace in the secret of the heart, thou mayest be made instrumental in winning souls to Christ.

O the sweetness and preciousness of the Saviour's love shed abroad in the heart, which His believing and obedient children do indeed know, yea realize in their experience that in His presence is fulness of joy, and with the eye of faith are given to see something of those pleasures which are at his right hand for evermore. Then blessed and happy are all those who love His inward appearing, and obey the teaching of His grace and good Spirit in the secret of their hearts, being faithful unto death.

Such as these, when their little day of twelve hours is over, are by grace prepared to say, they have fought a good fight, have finished their course, and kept the faith ; then comes the blessed assurance of obtaining a crown of righteousness, laid up for all the faithful followers of the Lamb. The nearer these are brought to their heavenly home, the more methinks they must be clothed with a sense of their own nothingness, and unworthiness, and nothing of their own to trust to, Not by works of righteousness we (as men and creatures have done or can do) but as saith the Apostle, "according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost ;—which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour ;" &c.

In desire that the Divine blessing may rest upon *thee* and *thine*.

I remain, with love affectionately, thy friend,

JOHN F. MARSH.

To a Friend.

In again taking the pen, I seem hardly to know how to begin, or how to express or convey the feeling of that love which continues to flow in my heart unabated towards thee, and of which I gave thee many a proof in our late journeying together in the pure feeling of it. This thou well knowest, also the deep interest, and tender and affectionate solicitude I have felt and still feel for thy best welfare and preservation every way. What more can I say than I have already said? Were I now with thee I might say the same thing again and again. May what has been communicated be in remembrance for thy strengthening and encouraging, and mayst thou hold on thy way, nothing doubting, and continue to experience safe stepping. I believe thou wilt, as thou keeps near to that Divine power which has wrought so marvellously for thee. Ah! how sweetly is the forming and preparing hand of the Lord upon thee! Bow in fear and in humility under it. Oh! the sweet feeling and sense I think I have had of thy favoured state and condition, and I long more than I can well express, thy encouragement and steady perseverance in that path and way cast up for thee to walk in; and that thou mayst be faithful every way, in every thing, and every day. I long that nothing may, and I seem to have the humble trust, that nothing will be permitted to mar or hinder the precious work of grace from going forward in thine heart. Then be humble, be watchful, be simple, and it will be well with thee.

To a young Friend.

Croydon, 13th of 6th mo., 1851.

Now dear R., in allusion to what thou sayest respecting the Office of Overseer in your particular meeting, how far thou hast done right in declining to accept the appointment I leave to thy own feelings, trusting it was not done without being duly weighed and considered on thy part,—yet for the sake of the precious cause of Truth, I could have been glad, and perhaps it might have been well, if thou could have yielded in this important matter, to the judgment of thy friends,—but as I can hardly be supposed to know the peculiar circumstances of your monthly meeting, it may be for me to rest satisfied in the hope and trust, that for the present thou may have done right, and been preserved therein. But oh! the harm that has been done, and which does arise from injudicious and wrong appointments to different stations in the Church! What a weakness has it brought over a meeting, and what a hurt to individuals, when placed by man in a station or stations for which the evidence of a fitness is wanting—when the evidence is wanting of such being placed there by the Great Head of the Church. Therefore, how important that those who are rightly qualified, gifted, and fitted, should not withdraw their shoulders from their appointed work, or through unprofitable diffidence and discouragement shrink from any portion of service that may fall to their lot.

To an elderly Friend.

1854.

My dear Friend,

In a feeling of that love and sympathy which I trust flowed in my heart toward thee when my lot was cast in

that small island, do I afresh salute thee as one walking much alone, having few about thee with whom to hold spiritual intercourse—with whom to take sweet counsel, and go in company to the house of prayer ; yet blessed are they, who, weaned from all creaturely dependence, ceasing wholly from man, put their whole trust in the Lord alone, seeking daily after a closer and closer walk with Him. Such as these do know something of what the Psalmist meant when he said “My soul is even as a weaned child.” How sweet his words professing the humility of his mind, “Lord my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty, neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me, &c.” And although such have often to feel their poverty and need, yet with the same experienced servant have the inward sense and feeling that “the Lord thinketh upon them.” Surely then it matters not how low we are brought, so that we do not cast away our confidence in our low seasons, nor the shield of faith as though it had not been anointed ;—rather let us seek to lift up the head in hope, not suffering our hands to hang down with weakness and discouragement ;—but using the little strength mercifully afforded from day to day, an increase thereof will be known, and ability given to press forward on our heavenly journey, even toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

I think I can a little understand from the tenor of thine, somewhat of thy many discouragements on account of the low state of things among the few professing with Friends in your little island, as also the low state of things among other christian professors. Ah ! truly it is a low day as regards the life of religion ; there is so much that is superficial,—so much of the worldly spirit

prevailing with all sorts of professors ; consequently, comparatively but little of true spiritual mindedness to be met with, that it seems difficult at times to rise above the depressing and discouraging feelings that seem almost ready to overwhelm. It is sad to find your meeting is so much decreased, and in such a state. All this I hope will not discourage thee from meeting with the very few who assemble there ; no doubt it is heavy, and must be so, if there be not an individual engagement of heart to draw nigh in spirit unto the Lord, a wrestling in spirit for the blessing of preservation, and for watchfulness unto prayer,—a united exercise, a putting as it were, shoulder to shoulder, in order to roll away the stone from the well's mouth, that so there might be a partaking together of the living stream, a being refreshed together at the living spring. The promise s and will be verified in the experience of the soul that truly waiteth on the Lord, whether few or more in number, that “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

I think I can a little sympathize with the solitary few up and down in their small meetings, both when in and out of meeting, ready at times to query whether any man careth for their soul ? Yet these, as their expectation is from the Lord alone, know that He not only thinketh upon, but also careth for them, and in His own time lifts up the light of His countenance upon them.

To ———

Croydon, 18th of 10th Mo., 1854.

Use strength, gain strength—seems to me a profitable watchword, and sometimes we may be reminded that the strength of ability often, is not fully known till

tried. But why do I write thus, my brother? Not that thou shouldst in any way be led to stir up or awake thy Beloved till he please, but rather desire thou mayst be preserved from suffering thy mind to sink too low, so as to prevent thy doing what thy hands may find to do. The watch in this particular is well for us to observe. How encouraging the words "The Lord preserveth the simple. I was brought low and he helped me." And where much is given, much is required, and where less is given, less is required.

To a friend in Ireland.

Croydon, 11th of 12th Mo., 1856.

I have often mentally saluted thee as a brother beloved in the Lord, with best desires for thy strengthening and encouraging in the way cast up for thee,—that nothing may be suffered to mar the good work begun in thy heart; but that by submission to the power of Divine grace, thou mayst grow therein, going on from one degree of it to another, and by deepening in the root of life, bring forth fruit abundantly to the praise of Him who has done so much for thee. Let there be no shrinking on thy part from those needful prunings and purgings essential to a true growth, remembering that He who declared himself to be the true Vine, and his Father the Husbandman, also saith, "Every branch in me that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Thus mayst thou become fruitful in the field of offering, and joyful in the house of prayer. Oh! the baptisms needful to be experienced in order to be qualified to divide the word aright;—and oh! how great the need of simplicity, and

a strict walking in the path of self-denial ;—therefore, may nothing be counted too near or too dear to be parted with, that may be called for at thy hands. Dwell deep my brother, in the spirit of thy mind, and keep the watch in the light, so mayst thou come to experience preservation on every hand, even to the hair's breadth.

To a younger Friend.

Croydon, 8th of 8th Mo., 1857.

My Dear Friend,

Thy affectionate interesting letter of the 26th ult was duly received, and seems to have afresh awakened in my mind the feeling of tender sympathy ; as well as calculated to strengthen the feeling I have so long had respecting thee, and as so often expressed to thee, even the sense of the preciousness of the love of our Heavenly Father shed abroad in thy heart, and of His goodness and mercy in visiting thy soul with the day-spring from on high ; and has He not by the immediate power of His Spirit convinced thee of sin ? giving thee indeed to feel the truth of the Scripture, that “ all have sinned and come short of the glory of God ; ” consequently the need all have of a Saviour and Redeemer. Yes, not only convinced thee of sin, but also led thee to deep repentance for the same ; and to trust alone to the free mercy of God in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of thy sins. What cause then there is for thee, my brother, to magnify the power of that grace by which so great a change has been wrought for thee. What an unspeakable mercy to have been brought out of so great darkness into the marvellous light of the Lord,—to have been delivered from “ an evil heart of unbelief,” and in lieu

thereof to have a heart engaged in desire to serve the living God ; to have thine eye opened to see of the beauty and excellency of the Truth as it is in Jesus, to behold those things which make for peace, and accompany life and salvation. Ah ! surely when humbled under a sense of the goodness and mercy of the Lord which has followed, and still follows thee, thy heart must be prepared to adopt the language of the Psalmist, and say, “ Bless the Lord, O my soul : and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits : who forgiveth all thine iniquities : who healeth all thy diseases : who redeemeth thy life from destruction ; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies.” Well, my dear friend, I notice thy allusion to the occasion of our last interview, which seems to have led thee into deep thoughtfulness and profitable searching of heart, and I am pleased with thy openness in thus communicating with me, and I much hope thy mind has not been discouraged from anything I said,—far be it from me, on the contrary thou hast proof of my much love and affectionate interest, and that my heart desires thy strengthening and encouraging in the way of holiness, the way cast up for thee to walk in, the way of the cross, the path of self denial, the way in which the righteous of all ages who have trod, have found safety. Then be encouraged to hold on thy way in *faith*, and in *faithfulness*, casting all thy care and confidence in Him who careth for thee, and who is continually watching over the workmanship of His hands for good, and who, I believe, will never leave nor forsake any of those who put their whole trust in Him. The Lord has indeed done much for thy soul, and may I not say given thee to feel that thou lovest much,

and that to His grace thou art a great debtor; then keep back no part of the price,—what He requires is unreserved obedience and dedication of heart in all things. May'st thou then be strengthened to honour Him with the first fruits of that spiritual increase with which thou mayest be favoured, so will His blessing which maketh rich, and to which he addeth no sorrow, be increasingly thy portion. My paper is nearly covered, and as I hope before long I may be favoured with some of thy company again, I may now bid thee affectionately farewell, and with dear love

I remain, thy sincere Friend,

JOHN F. MARSH.

Croydon, 21st of 12th Mo., 1858.

My dear friend J. T.,

I could have liked earlier than this to have responded to thy truly comforting and acceptable letter of the 9th inst., the unexpected receipt of which, with the perusal of it, had a tendering effect on my spirit, and the tear seemed ready to flow in the feeling of thankfulness that a beloved brother in the distance, yet brought near in spirit, was so affectionately drawn forth in the expression of sympathy for one who deeply feels the increased and increasing low state of things in our beloved Society.

These are indeed times of sorrowful declension and departure in many ways from (may we not say) the simplicity of the Truth as it is in Jesus,—and falling away from upholding various precious testimonies, committed, as I believe, to us as a people to bear in the face of the nations, and before all people; and for which our forefathers in the Truth suffered so much in supporting

of them;—and which precious testimonies, a remnant, through mercy, are yet preserved in a faithful upholding of them. It seems to me that the desolating effects of the Conference is already felt, and if the recommendation of it should be adopted by the Yearly Meeting, will be yet more and more seen and felt in a lamentable degree. And in the present unsettled state of things, is it likely to stop there? whilst there continues such longing for change on the part of the promoters thereof. Alas! alas! that a disposition should seem prevalent on the part of some in the station of Minister, Elder, Overseer, &c., to lean to, and yield to the weaknesses of the present day. Oh! that there was more of a preparedness, under the humbling sense of our great degeneracy as a people, to “Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly”—to “Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children, and those that suck the breasts, &c.”—(see the prophet Joel.) But it seems to me that now-a-days, we as a people, in many respects, do not go the way rightly to gather the children and people. But perhaps I had better check the mournful strain; we do, I expect, see and feel the state of things much alike; and while our spirits may be clothed with mourning and lamentation, may we each seek to be preserved from sinking too low, or casting away our confidence in low seasons, or the shield of faith,—lest in so doing we become weak instead of being strong, and thereby prevent ourselves from doing that which may be appointed for our hands to do. The cause that is so near and dear to us is the Lord’s, and he will be mindful of and care for his little, humble, lowly, dependent ones,—those who feel they have no strength or might of their own, and therefore are concerned to put their trust under the shadow of his

wings, for “He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength”—yea, these are privileged to be covered with the feathers of his love. How sweet is that portion, “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust, his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.” And again, how precious the words of our holy Redeemer, “Fear not little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

And with thee, dear J., do I also think the counsel given by Him our blessed Saviour, peculiarly suitable to some of us in the present day, “In your patience possess ye your souls.” How important to have daily in remembrance the injunction given to “watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.”

Short Extract of a Letter to a friend.

Let each of us look to our own standing,—mind our own business—our own proper calling—eyeing that light which shines on our path;—not try to meet that in others which our spirits cannot unite with,—and in some instances enter into things, which, however lawful and good in their place, are not expedient for some of us to be so busied about, and taken up with. I need not particularize. Is it not to be feared that many through unwatchfulness, have got out of their pathway—the path cast up for them to walk in, and thereby gradually and almost imperceptibly to themselves, much drawn away from the inward life. In how many ways and shapes is the enemy seeking to betray, beguile, lay waste, devour,—and how would he scatter and divide,—but what a mercy to know and believe that through the

power of Divine grace we may receive strength to resist all his fiery darts, and overcome him in all his assaults.

Croydon, 11th of 11th Mo., 1862.

My beloved Friend,

Although words, whether written or spoken, may not be needful to assure thee of my continued love, and affectionate remembrance ; yet there are times when I feel thee brought so near in spirit, that to have thee by my side, that we might commune together on heavenly things, would be sweet indeed ; but as that can only be (if so permitted) occasionally, we may in spirit bear each other in remembrance for good, and in desire that we may be preserved on every hand, and strengthened to hold on in faith and in faithfulness in the way cast up for us, and for all who would be followers of the Lamb, to walk in, even in the way of the cross, and path of self denial, following Him the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world, in the regeneration and newness of life. O how sweet the heavenly fellowship these enjoy, whether present with, or absent from each other ! Surely such may understand what was said of some in ancient days who feared the Lord, that they spake often one to another ; and their conversation and spiritual intercourse must have been acceptable in the sight of Him whom they feared, as we read, “ The Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I

make up my jewels ; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him."

O that there was more of this oneness of feeling, and unity of spirit,—more of this cementing influence of heavenly good experienced amongst us as a people,—more of seeing as it were eye to eye,—more of a harmonious labouring together for the promotion of the precious cause of Truth ! But I need not enlarge on the mournful strain. My object in writing now seems chiefly to evince afresh my feeling of sympathy for, and near unity with thee, my beloved friend and brother ; apprehending I am somewhat sensible of the many conflicts, provings, and deep baptisms thou hast to experience for the sake of the precious cause of Truth ; and how, as I believe, thou hast to suffer from being straitened as it were in the exercise of that precious gift in the ministry with which I believe thou art entrusted. When I say straitened, I mean only on the account (not otherwise) of the church not having recognised the same, by recording thee as a minister, whereby thou art hindered from going forth to visit the churches, to which, if my feelings are right, thou hast secret drawings. Now thou knowest my brother, how it is with thee in this awful particular, and how far it would be well and proper for thee to mention something of thy feelings to some in the station of Elder ; giving them to feel the weight of their *responsibility* and *accountability*.

Perhaps I need scarcely say more, thou art, I think, aware how tenderly I have felt for thee, and how interested I am in and for thy spiritual welfare every way. "The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him : and he will show them his covenant." Another portion is in remembrance, and which latter I think was expressed by thee some years ago in our meeting at

Croydon, and perhaps the first time of thy appearing in that way in meeting, viz, “The righteous Lord loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.”

Croydon, 16th of 2nd Mo., 1864.

My dear friend

Ann Alexander,

I have often had in remembrance a *short* sentence of that beloved departed friend Mary Alexander of Kelvedon, expressed to me *many* years ago as she was going out of a friend's house at Coggeshall, and just as she passed by me near the door, viz, “I love to be loved,” and which few words seemed afresh revived on again receiving some of thy messengers of love; for truly I may say *I* love to be loved,—that is, loved in the Truth, and for my love of the Truth, as it is in Jesus; and to be had in remembrance of the faithful, and to feel the unity of those whom my spirit can and does salute as disciples of the same Lord, and servants of the same good Master. And truly my dear friend, thou mayest be saluted as of this number, for very conspicuously is the badge of discipleship, *love*, marked or placed on thee. How precious are the words of our dear Redeemer, “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”—And the Apostle John speaks of the love of the brethren as a sign of life, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.” When the soul is quickened and made alive unto the Lord, precious indeed is the feeling of that love which flows in the heart towards others; especially so in the feeling of heavenly fellowship towards those who love our Lord

and Saviour Jesus Christ in sincerity, evidencing their love by keeping His commandments,—in obeying the teachings of His grace and good Spirit in the secret of the heart,—yes, loving His appearing there, and following Him in the regeneration, and walking in newness of life. Love and obedience He requireth,—“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”—Again, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments; and his commandments are not grievous,” &c. I may soon conclude, yet not without some fresh remembrance of memorable days and months passed under the sheltered and peaceful roof of dear M. L. and J. T. S., and of the strengthening and encouraging society oft times privileged to enjoy of beloved friends then living; but now, long since, thro’ redeeming love and mercy, as we may reverently believe, sweetly gathered home to their eternal rest. So that Ipswich, Woodbridge, Needham, &c., are to me spots of thankful remembrance.

Croydon, 20th of 2nd Mo., 1866.

My dear friend R. W.,

Thou hast been so much in my thoughts and affectionate remembrance since thy *little* visit to us, and which I did regret was so *short*; feeling my heart so filled with love, and I trust I may say living desires for thy best welfare, and safe steppings every way; and that, that eye which hath been opened in thee, giving thee to see those precious things which make for peace, and accompany life and salvation, may ever be kept single to the glory of thy Heavenly Father, to the praise of thy dear

Redeemer,—that so nothing may be suffered to obstruct thy progress, (as I think I somewhat spoke of in my former letter,) in that way cast up for thee to walk in, as a humble follower of the meek and lowly Jesus; who in that beautiful and best of sermons on the mount, said, “If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light, &c.” O then that thine eye may be kept single unto Him,—thy heart fixed and stayed on Him: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.” Has not this precious portion been often realized in thy experience? And in proportion as thou art strengthened to keep the *watch* in the *light*, so wilt thou be favoured to feel and know, that in the Lord’s presence there is fulness of joy,—yea, what it is to be covered with the feathers of His love, in putting thy trust under the shadow of His wings. O this keeping the watch in the Light, how important for each one of us individually! Herein is saving preservation; wherein we are given to see the various temptations and snares of the unwearied Enemy of our souls’ peace, and receive strength to resist them; yea, to overcome him in all his assaults. And may we not believe that he is especially busy in assailing those who are really quickened and made alive in the Truth? And it matters not to him in what way he gains his end, if he can but draw us off the watch, and in any way obstruct that precious work of grace in the heart. We read in the book of Proverbs, “Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.”

But why do I thus write dear R.? Not as though I thought, or apprehended thou wast other than on the watch tower; but knowing something of the conflicting state of things in our religious Society, and in spirit saluting thee as one of the precious visited children of

our Heavenly Father,—and having had some opportunity of marking thy watchful deportment, I seemed afresh engaged in desire for thy preservation both on the right hand, and on the left. It is profitable for us, that we “study to be quiet and to do our own business,”—that we sit alone and keep silence,—that the eye of the mind be kept inward, not outward. It is not for us to say “Lord, and what shall this man do?” but our safety is in obeying the words spoken by our blessed Lord in reply to one who so queried of him, “If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? Follow thou me.”

My wife unites with me in love, in which I remain thy very affectionate and interested friend,

JOHN F. MARSH.

Probably, 1860.

My beloved friend R. E.,

It is indeed long since evincing in this way the continuance of my love and affectionate remembrance of thee my endeared friend and brother, and I may add, companion in the tribulated way,—for such has been in no small measure our individual experience. The cup of suffering may have been as regards some things very different, and had it not been that the supporting arm was felt to be underneath when the floods were permitted to lift up their voice and their waves, our poor souls might have been overwhelmed with inward grief and sorrow; but the Lord our helper, mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea, hath from time to time worked deliverance for us in an unexpected and unlooked for manner—so as that the precious truth has been realized, “The Lord is good, a stronghold.”

Sympathy, what a precious gift ! and when rightly felt, is indeed comforting and soothing ; yet after all, however tenderly possessed and felt to flow one towards the other, that portion in the Proverbs is realized in experience, “The heart knoweth his own bitterness ; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.” Yes and how precious to know that our Heavenly Father is continually watching over us for good, and strengthens to endure the various dealings of His good and tender hand upon us—for “Like as, &c.”—(See the 13th and 14th verses, Psalm 103.)

8th of 12th Mo., 1871.

To the same.

It seems somewhat difficult to express with the pen the comfort and satisfaction the perusal of thine has afforded me ; for often have my thoughts been turned towards thee, my beloved friend and brother, with desire to know how it was faring with thee, and how far thou wert strengthened in maintaining thy steadfastness in the Truth, in this day of falling away in many ways among us as a people ; so that my heart, yea, I may say our hearts were made thankful, and to rejoice in the consoling belief that through the goodness and mercy of our Heavenly Father, thou hast been kept from being carried away with the stream of innovation, as well as what may perhaps be considered, creaturely zeal and activity of the present day.

To a younger Friend.

The Christian's life is a continual warfare,—experience teaches this. Continual then must be the watch

maintained, that so we do not in any degree fall away backward, or give any portion of our strength to that which is not of the Truth, as we through mercy have received, loved and embraced it;—that we do not stumble at the cross, nor shrink back from our allotted portion of trial and of suffering;—that we do not cast away our confidence in low seasons, nor in seasons of spiritual desertion—nor the shield of faith; but rather let us seek to put on strength in the name of Him who doeth valiantly for his little dependent ones, giving them experimentally to testify that the right hand of the Lord is exalted—the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly—Ah! dear H., may the end with us be permitted to crown all! remembering what is written for our instruction and quickening in the way and work of the soul's salvation, “But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

To the same.

My beloved young Friend,

It is, I believe well for us frequently to recur to past steppings—to have in remembrance the way by which we have come—the way by which we have been brought by that good Hand, which leads about and instructs, as there is a yielding to its secret guidance in the way of righteousness and holiness—in the way of the cross and path of self-denial.—To meditate on that Arm of saving power and strength, which has wrought marvellously for us, and been felt to be underneath for our support in the time of need, and made bare for our deliverance in moments of extremity. That so the mind be kept susceptible of the tender dealings of our Heavenly

Father towards us, and we thereby, under the constraining of his love and power, feel our hearts engaged in the breathing desire to know what we shall render unto Him for all his benefits towards us.

Thy appearances [in the ministry] till latterly have not seemed very frequent,—which bespeaks thy caution and care in endeavouring to mind the stepping stones. May this watchful care be always maintained,—then I believe preservation will be experienced from going before thy good Guide, as also from withholding more than is meet, which tendeth to poverty. Keep to the life and to the power, and heavenly anointing—and move only in and under it.

To an acknowledged Minister.

The present is a day when many appear so outward, and looking, it is to be feared, too much to the poor ministers, that it requires great watchfulness on the part of these. I would say the double watch that they keep so near the pure leadings and guidings of Truth, that they be not tempted to feed the people with words, out of the life and power thereof,—for we do know that except the Lord build the house—except he keep the city—'tis in vain.

To J. and H. May, about to emigrate.

I think a pious author somewhere says, “There is that to be met with by the honest enquirer and sincere seeker after the mind of Truth, that will direct even to a hair's breadth.” Verily, my dear cousins, do I believe in this. May we ever keep near to this inward principle

of light and life,—and then I believe we shall experience right guidance in things temporal as well as in things spiritual, even to a hair's breadth.

To a young Friend.

Ah! dear Joseph, it is the little, the lowly, and hidden ones, as it were, that seem to me to want to be encouraged to hold on their way in faith and in faithfulness. And may we not believe, that if there be a revival amongst us as a people in the spiritual life, it must be thro' the faithfulness of such as these, and of such as may yet be brought (by yielding their hearts to the power of the Lord's Spirit which visits them) to unite in membership with our beloved Society? And more than a few of the poor of this world, rich in faith. And what saith the apostle James? "Hearken my beloved brethren," down to "them that love him;"—and again the apostle Paul to the Corinthians, "For ye see your calling brethren," down to "that no flesh should glory in his presence."

To a Friend in Ireland.

Croydon, 29th of 1st Mo., 1873.

I could have liked earlier to have acknowledged thy kind few lines dated the 5th inst., informing us of the decease of our long known and much beloved and valued friend, Richard Allen, of Waterford.

Precious one! his race is run, and we may believe his work was done; so that at the close of a well-spent and dedicated life to the precious cause of Truth, he was of the number of those servants whom the Lord

when he cometh to call home to their everlasting rest and happiness, are found watching and waiting, having their loins girt about with truth, and their lights burning. How appropriate that portion in the book of Job as realized in his experience, "Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." And now, how sweet the thought,

"Arrayed in robes of purest white,
The crown immortal wears—
And numbered with the saints in light,
The palm of victory bears."

Thus, as thou says, "another faithful and upright pillar has gone from us, in this day of shaking, scattering, and sifting,"—yes, dear friend, this is a day of shaking, scattering, and sifting—a day in which I think it may be said, that the leaders of the people have caused and do cause them to err; but I need not dwell on what have been and are still the sorrowful feelings of my heart—on account of the low state of things as respects the fallen away and downward course of our once so highly favoured society; and great is the need for those who are given to see and feel things as they really are, to seek after patient endurance under suffering; yea, in patience to possess their souls, remembering for their encouragement that the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, "The Lord knoweth them that are his"—and they that are His, know in whom they have believed, and in whom they trust; and under the shadow of His wings they are safe, yea, covered with the feathers of the Saviour's love, they are safe. How sweet is that portion—"He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust,—his truth shall be thy shield and buckler."

My thoughts are often turned towards beloved ones in your land, and have also in sweet remembrance some of those valued ones whose places here on earth now know them no more; but whose purified spirits, we may reverently believe, thro' redeeming love and merey, are now inhabitants of that city whose walls are salvation, and whose gates are praise; and where sighing, pain, and sorrow is known no more.

My love and sympathy to each of R. A's nieces. Please give my love also to our dear friends S. & J. N., L. P., P. C., and the W. family, all of whose love and sympathy I feelingly shared when in Cork. My love also to others who may remember me, accepting the same for thyself and family, &c.

To a Friend.

In the feeling of much love and affection, I take pen to acknowledge thy very welcome letter dated 4th ult., viz. 3rd mo. 4th, a memorable day with me, it being the eighty-fourth anniversary of my birth, which event I apprehend thou wast not aware of when taking the pen to address me. To be held in remembrance by those we especially love in the Truth, either on such or any other day, is cheering and comforting;—and oh! how precious is that love which these feel to flow in their hearts one towards the other, whether permitted more or less frequently to mingle together in person, yet often are they brought near in spirit, and in the feeling of heavenly fellowship, desiring each other's growth and advancement in spiritual things—yea, a deepening in the root of life. I do desire the strengthening and encouraging of such,

that they may hold on their way in faith and in faithfulness, maintaining the daily watch unto prayer, that so there be no giving away of strength to things which may lead astray from the pure leadings of Truth as believed in and professed by the true Friend.

But alas ! it is to be feared, what if I say, too obvious, that very many have, as it were, set themselves to work, by putting their hands to things, which, if there had been a dwelling under the humbling, baptizing power of Truth, they would possibly be given to see, feel and act differently ;—yea, led in paths and ways not of their own choosing. Far be it from me to write judgingly,—but there may be some in this day of outward activity, who for want of feeling more after, and patiently waiting for divine guidance, are tempted to choose their own ways and sacrifices. How important then for each and all to have daily reference to the injunction of our blessed Lord and Saviour, to watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation.

LETTERS HOME WHILE TRAVELLING
WITH CERTIFICATE.

Ipswich, 20th of 3rd Mo., 1826.

My dear Hannah,

I am pleased to inform thee, am getting on comfortably, and am much helped from day to day, and from sitting to sitting, — yes, humiliating as the work is, yet how easy is the way made, — and how, when nature would shrink from entering the houses and families of some, are the mountains of opposition, and the hills of difficulty, removed as out of the way, — and what humbling, tendering seasons have some been ; that a hope rests with me, amidst many discouraging feelings, that I am not altogether out of my place. As regards things here, the life is very low, much of the dryness and barrenness to be felt. Now my dear Hannah, let me say how pleased and comforted I have been with the accounts thou hast sent me of thyself and thy movements ; mayst thou be encouraged and strengthened to hold on thy way, — cast not away thy confidence in low seasons, nor thy shield as tho' it had never been anointed, but cast all thy care and confidence in him who careth for us, and who continues to watch over his humble, dependent children for good. Ah ! then, wait low, —

wait in the light,—watch in the light,—move in the light,—then I believe thou cannot fail to do right, and will thereby come to experience preservation.

While visiting all the families of Friends in Birmingham.

12th of 10th Mo., 1838.

My beloved Hannah,

Thou wouldst perceive a little by my last how low and discouraged my poor mind was and had been, and how ready to quit the field of labour; and truly the prospect of going from house to house among Friends here, did appear too great a matter for me to undertake, feeling indeed my great weakness and unfitness for so important and weighty an engagement, and on coming here I seemed to look for a release,—yet being favoured on the evening of my arrival and the next morning with such a sweet feeling of peaceful quiet, and may I not say resignation of mind to what might seem best, so far as I might be favoured to know; that it seemed with me in this feeling to make the attempt of beginning in the simplicity and in the little grain of faith, and to go on just one day at a time, not looking too forward; and should the way seem to close, I hope timely to stop—so whether it may be extended throughout, or only a visit in part, I hope to be preserved, and that in the end I may be favoured to feel peace. It is indeed no light thing for any one to move along in this line, and in the present critical juncture especially, in such a place as Birmingham and elsewhere; yet we do know that as the eye is kept single and the heart simple, preservation may be experienced to a hair's breadth, and that the

hands of the little ones may be made strong, and to become skilful in battle, and their fingers to fight availingly, and also to know, through the power of divine grace, their minds to be clothed with the spirit of meekness and gentleness: so that there is no need for the right-minded and sincere-hearted to be overmuch cast down and dismayed in these perilous times. These do know the foundation to stand sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are his, and they that are his know in whom they believe; and as they continue to believe in him, and to trust in him with their whole heart, and not to lean to their own understandings, he will never leave them nor forsake them, but will from time to time give them to feel that he does own them, and love them, and careth for them, and covereth their heads in the day of battle; yea, keepeth them as the apple of the eye, and preserveth them as in the hollow of his hand.

I send this short scrap in order that thy mind may be at rest as to my present engagement, and that my friends also in the distance may know what I am about, and with thyself, &c., think of me for good, and in desire for my preservation. I hope to write again soon. I am *more comfortably* settled in and *cared for every way* by dear Thomas and Sarah Southall than I can now in this letter tell thee.

27th of 10th Mo., 1838.

My health is remarkably well, and the kindness of Friends to help me forward I think increases, though a poorer one I think they could not well have amongst them.

Thy truly loving and very affectionate husband,

J. F. MARSH.

[While travelling with certificate in the North.]

Brighthouse, 13th of 10th Mo., 1841.

My beloved Hannah,

Thou need not fear my making too great haste ; hitherto I hope sufficient time has been allowed, much of which between meetings has been occupied in making calls on friends who may be *particularly* invalids, and such as are prevented from now getting to Meeting ; or any I may incline to see as interesting characters,—but alas, as yet I seem to have met with but little that tends to cheer. As regards the spiritual life, things are indeed low in these parts, more so than I think I should have expected to have found them ; so that I am at times somewhat depressed under the sense and feeling of it, both in and out of meetings, and am myself moving along in much poverty and weakness.

Gainsborough, 2nd of 11th Mo., 1841.

Most of the Meetings I have been at latterly are very small, and things do not appear to brighten as I proceed. As to the life, it seems in some places almost extinct, and think I may say that it is low everywhere. Oh ! our poor Society, how poor, how low, how peeled and stripped ; but may we not, and must we not yet hope that this people will yet arise and shake themselves as from the dust of the earth, and again put on, and be clothed with the beautiful garments of salvation and praise ? let us have faith to believe it will yet be so ; how important then to be individually faithful !

Marrs, near Doncaster, 17th of 11th Mo., 1841.

The Meetings on First day at Hull were, I trust, solemn seasons, the sweet covering of solemn quiet which seemed to prevail throughout, both while I was engaged in testimony, as well as during the time of silence, is precious in remembrance.

Orrell Hall, near Wigan, 29th of 11th Mo., 1841.

I felt it somewhat formidable travelling in the close carriages, though the owners of them seemed preserved in the humility, and from an appearance of greatness and state. I find the state of things very low in Lancashire, and where can we say they are not so? But it will not do to give up, but we must endure the conflict and maintain the warfare.

Manchester, 17th of 12th Mo., 1841.

R. I. then drove me back to the Garstang Station, in readiness to go forward to Lancaster; and whilst waiting for the train coming up, which was some time first, in a small place, and standing by a little stove, and the few who were present being rather quiet, I ventured to express a little in their hearing.

Derby, 31st of 12th Mo., 1841.

I hope these few lines may not be a disappointment to thee, but if the cause of my detention be right, it will be rather cause of thankfulness for my preservation.

I may now tell thee, that after a season of deep conflict, I have yielded to an impression of duty, that it will be safest for me to return to Monyash, and hold a public meeting ; this prospect has cost me not a little. Cousin R.L. has kindly endeavoured to make the way easy for me, and intends driving me there tomorrow, about 25 miles, and for us to return in the same way on 2nd day, and on 3rd day morning I hope to be able to turn my face homeward in peace, and to meet thee about tea time with a bright countenance.

Woodbridge, 28th of 3rd Mo., 1843.

My beloved Hannah,

* * * * At Ipswich, on 1st day morning, I bent the knee early in the meeting ; after which J. Price stood up. I then had my opportunity of getting, I trust, pretty clear of friends here, being enabled, I trust, to speak to some states. I was on my feet some time. J. P. then knelt down ; and after, in a *few* words, I bade friends affectionately farewell. Many, I believe, were tendered and brought down in this meeting. One friend remarked to me it had been a word in season to him,—another, that I had preached to him,—and another, on taking leave of me at a friend's house, could scarcely do so, his heart seemed so full, and the tears ready to start, so that I trust it was a good meeting on the whole, and that the good Master was pleased to be near to help with a little help. We had dinner at R. D. A's, who also remarked on the favoured time. At about a quarter before two we left Ipswich for Woodbridge, having concluded to be at their afternoon meeting, which we did

attend,—and perhaps it was well our passing away so quickly, after so favoured a time, without again getting into conversation with friends. We are so kindly received, I think I may say everywhere; the hearts of friends and their houses being opened to receive us. Friends here seem to have set their minds on a family visit, at least some of them,—but that does not appear to be the thing required.

W. F. also seemed a little to think whether I might not have such a service at Norwich,—a service, I trust I should not shrink from, did I apprehend myself called upon to engage in. It is very comforting to have the company of Wm. M.—his example is instructing; and if preserved, as I trust he may and will be, in the fear and humility, is likely to be a favoured instrument. O what cause of thankfulness that the good Hand continues thus to be turned on one here and on another there, in this our low day. Surely we may take courage, and believe it will continue to be so from generation to generation yet unborn,—for I believe there must be such a people, and if faithfulness is but abode in, there are many hidden ones up and down, who I believe will yet have to appear as the wings of a dove covered with silver, and her feathers as with yellow gold.

Allendale, 24th of 3rd Mo. 1849.

We took tea in a large company at —, rather formidable to me such large companies, especially to one who often seems among them as it were in the foolishness. I am thankful in being able to say I have now completed my visit to the meetings of Durham Q. M., and have to acknowledge, I trust with reverent

thankfulness, the help and strength thus far graciously afforded, and preservation mercifully extended in the midst of much poverty and weakness.

30th of 4th Mo., 1849.

Last evening the Public Meeting at Pardshaw Hall was largely attended,—the Meeting-house large. I expect about 400 were present, and one of the most quiet Public Meetings I ever attended;—the silent part of it too, I am inclined to think, was the most instructive. Many of the people came, I expect, for miles round, that it was indeed an interesting sight.

LETTERS WHILE TRAVELLING IN IRELAND.

Waterford, 21st of 8th Mo., 1837.

Where we go to take dinner or tea, there are mostly some friends invited to meet us, and very frequently we find ourselves encircled in large companies, which at times proves somewhat humiliating to my feelings, yet I trust we are helped safely through them, whether by sometimes giving way to the uttering of a few broken sentences, or remaining silent. I seem to feel it my place to labour more in a private way and individually, on which occasions best help is often in a remarkable manner extended, and, may I not say, to my own humbling admiration, and, perhaps I may add, without boasting, to the tendering of many. In Meetings I seem mostly to speak to some one or more states, but in most places the state of things is so low, that it seems as if the life could not rise with power, and be in dominion—that if we be rightly here, we must be willing to suffer with the suffering seed.

J. F. M.

Rathangan, 25th of 7th Mo., 1837.

My beloved Friend

John F. Marsh.

The remembrance of thy little visit to us is precious ; it has left a sweet savour behind, and though thy

public labour was trying and exercising, yet I believe it must be the feeling of all the living members, and it was an encouraging evidence that thou wast in thy right place amongst us,—and I thought I would just send thee the language that was with me before we parted, and often arose since—that of Boaz to his reapers, “May the Lord be with thee,” and I doubt not but he is with thee. Farewell, and remember thy poor little sister in the Truth.

S. K.

Waterford, 21st of 8th Mo., 1837.

Dear Friend

John F. Marsh.

I wish to tell thee that yesterday morning my mind was much occupied in looking towards thy sitting amongst us, and I felt comforted with these words, “Thou knowest the good Hand to lean upon.” And I fully believe that thy silent sitting was the most instructive ministration for us, and did loudly call us to look unto our own standing. Oh! this is what we each of us want to be brought unto.

Some few remarked to me yesterday that they considered it a favour to have had a silent meeting. Oh! mayest thou continually lean upon that good supporting Hand, saith

Thy affectionate friend,

A. B.

Kilnock, 21st of 8th Mo., 1856.

Ah! things are low indeed in most places, and where there seems a little good at work in the hearts of

one here and another there, there are so few comparatively prepared to strengthen and encourage.

Waterford, 5th of 8th Mo., 1865.

Preservation, I trust, is mercifully granted from doing harm to the precious cause.

Wexford Co., 9th of 8th Mo., 1865.

I am favoured to be very nicely in health, and in other respects I trust I am at times much helped and favoured. Things seem low in most places, but that one seems prepared to find, go where we may; but we must endeavour to hope on, do our best, and leave the rest.

Kilnock, 15th of 8th Mo., 1865.

I hope mine posted on 7th day, and finished at Ballytore, thou received yesterday. The meeting there on First day was a remarkably favoured time; the silence at the close and throughout, was so precious that one hardly knew how to break it up. I was, I trust, much helped in testimony. The one at Enniscorthy, also somewhat memorable: indeed I might mention others, as well as many precious opportunities at other times, and especially some more privately and individually, but I must forbear entering into particulars.

Kilnock, 18th of 8th Mo., 1865.

I am remarkably favoured with health, and in other respects am mercifully helped from day to day. Things are low as regards the spiritual life, I think I may say every where.

Mount Mellick, 28th of 8th Mo., 1865.

Jonathan Goodbody has left me this morning, and I expect he may meet me again on 4th day, perhaps for two days, or so. So thou may see I am supplied with helpers according to my need; favoured also I trust in realizing the gracious assurance, that, "as thy day, so shall thy strength be." If spared to return to my happy and comfortable home, I shall have much to say, that will be interesting to thee. So far I have moved on from place to place, I hope without hurrying, and much kindness and openness is evinced towards me, which is indeed cause for gratitude and thankfulness to our Heavenly Father.

J. F. MARSH.

Newtown, 7th of 8th Mo., 1865.

My dear Friend

Hannah Marsh.

Thy *beloved husband* leaves us in good health, and I trust with a peaceful mind, so far having I believe, been faithful while amongst us, in handing forth from time to

time, that which was entrusted to him by his Divine Master, under whose anointing he is moving along in meekness and circumspection.

Thy very affectionate friend,

RICHARD ALLEN.

LETTERS TO HIS FRIEND RICHARD ALLEN,
OF NEWTOWN, WATERFORD.

Croydon, 2nd of 11th Mo., 1847.

It is comforting to find that thou hast been able to accomplish so peacefully thy visit to the Meetings, &c., in your nation, and that thou art now about to discharge a debt of love to those of thy own particular meeting and neighbourhood. In thus breaking bread from house to house, may strength be given to communicate faithfully to the different states, that counsel designed for the awakening, warning, and encouraging of the flock. Ah ! it is humbling work, and not for us to choose our own sacrifices and services, but in simplicity and faith to follow the gentle leadings and guidings of the Good Shepherd ; doing that which we believe he bids us to do, leaving the effect or result to Him, who (though one may plant and another water,) giveth the increase.

2nd Mo., 1859.

A few words fitly spoken are permitted to have a secret influence and working on the mind, tending to the awakening, encouraging, warning, &c., as the need may be, and the effect produced thereby wisely hid from

the instrument ; and even where it may sometimes be like water spilt upon a stone, may yet be recalled to memory long after, as a message ;—though at the time not regarded, now through the mercy of the Lord to be embraced ; perhaps arising with freshness and power in a time of trial and distress,—in the hour of temptation,—in a season of adversity,—or on a bed of sickness.

° 29th of 11th Mo., 1864.

We must believe that the great Head of the Church will keep and preserve unto Himself a living people—a living remnant—und that in his own way and time He does, and will fit, prepare and qualify here one, and there one, more conspicuously and openly than some others, (who nevertheless according to their measure and growth do see and feel the like,) to lift up their voice like a trumpet, and show unto the people their transgression, and their sins ; yea, raised up and strengthened to bear a faithful and noble testimony to the simplicity of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

These, so long as they are preserved in a state of daily watchfulness, even unto prayer, being clothed with humility, and with the sweetness and meekness of the Spirit of Christ, have nothing to fear as to the outward.

12th of 5th Mo., 1866.

I scarcely need say my thoughts have turned towards your Yearly Meeting, which expect is now about over.

At present have heard no particulars, yet I seem prepared to think it has been as thou expresses it, “a

time of no small exercise to the living members of the Church both present and absent." Ah! and how can it be otherwise, from the very altered state of things in our Society?

Ours now is drawing very nigh, but Oh! how different is the feeling in many respects, in looking to attending it, to what it was in days and years gone by! But I may forbear dwelling further on the sorrowful, It is good and profitable for us that we study to be quiet, and to do our own business, yea that we mind and do our Master's business;—and again, how precious is the assurance, that "In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength."

1867.

Thy letter was truly acceptable, and comforting and refreshing to my spirit, evincing thy greenness in advanced years, still bringing "forth fruit in old age." Yes, and all by the grace of God; and Oh! how great the blessedness of those on whom this precious grace has not been bestowed in vain; and this not of themselves, or of ourselves, truly, "We are nothing, Christ is all."

"No strength of our own
Or goodness we claim,
Yet since we have known
The Saviour's great name,
In this our strong tower
For safety we hide,—
The Lord is our power,
The Lord will provide."

If we are anything acceptable in the Divine sight, it is all of and by grace. It is of the Lord's mercy if we are preserved alive in the truth from day to day and from hour to hour, experience teaching us that our safety is in being continually on the watch,—watching unto prayer.

Our once highly favoured Society I suppose was once rightly said to be our religious Society, but perhaps now it would seem more in accordance with the real state of things to say, the moral and social Society of Friends. But I need not dwell on the various causes of defection, neither will it do to suffer the poor mind to be over much cast down, but rather seek to have our souls possessed in patience, waiting daily to know the mind and will of our Heavenly Father concerning us individually ;—doing in simplicity and faith the little or more our feeble hands may find to do. He knoweth the sincerity of the heart, and how dear and precious is the cause of Truth to those who truly love and fear Him, and these must be passive in His hand, who in His own way and time can alone work for our deliverance.

Oh! to be clothed with the meekness and gentleness of Christ's Spirit! how rich, how full the blessing! yea, to be clothed with humility,—to be of the poor in spirit,—to be clothed with the spirit of watchfulness unto prayer.

And Oh! what a favour, what a mercy, notwithstanding the *wide opening* of the *flood gates*, that a living remnant have been preserved from being carried away with the stream of innovation. I have said the *few*, yet I hope and trust there are more than a few up and down, hidden characters, bowed in spirit, and secretly mourning over the desolations that abound. May all such, with ourselves, be preserved in true

patience, trusting in that powerful Arm that alone can work deliverance for His poor and afflicted people,—and who while feeling their poverty and need, are given to know that the Lord thinketh upon them.

Croydon, 12 of 3rd Mo., 1868.

My beloved friend

Richard Allen.

Day after day, and week after week, have again been suffered to pass away without acknowledging thy last acceptable and precious letter dated the first day of this year ; but truly beloved friend and brother thou art often in my affectionate remembrance, and especially have I latterly longed for ability in this way to evince the same,—I cannot plead want of time as an excuse, though that in different ways is pretty closely occupied ; and frequently some writing devolves upon one that cannot suitably be put aside, but one's poor mind is so continually bowed down under a sense of the withering state of things, as regards the spiritual life in our once highly favoured, but now degenerate Society, that the feeling of discouragement as respects any bright hope of better times in the future for this people seems almost overwhelming ; for we cannot shut our eyes as to what is from time to time passing around us, and to the fearful innovations and laying waste that has taken place. It seems to me, if I may so express it, as if one *plank* after another was giving way ; and if it really be so, surely the end must be a making shipwreck of faith and practice.

But O precious thought, there is the good Pilot at the Helm, “The Lord on high mightier than the noise of

many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.”—and blessed and praised be His holy name, His ever watchful eye is upon His little, lowly, trembling ones who love and fear Him, and who through His mercy have been preserved from giving away their strength to the many weaknesses of the present day; these can indeed lay hold of the precious assurance, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,”—and again, “Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” . . . Well, my beloved friend, we do know that the same Divine Power which first gathered us to be a people, is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever, and that He can in His own way and time yet raise up such a People as we were at the beginning, who shall be prepared livingly to show forth His praise, whose delight is to bring the children of men out of darkness into His marvellous Light,—yea to bear a faithful and noble testimony to the simplicity of the Truth as it is in Jesus. I may now express the hope that these lines may meet thee in as comfortable a state of health as when thou last wrote, and that thou hast been preserved from any serious cold during the past winter months; also that thou hast been able to enjoy the privilege of thy regular attendance of meetings, which at thy and *our* advanced age is indeed a great blessing and privilege. I am thankful to say we are favoured to be nicely in health, and I trust rightly feel the great occasion we have to feel grateful and thankful to our Heavenly Father for the bodily ability afforded, as also the preservation of our mental powers,—His mercies are indeed new every morning, and great is His faithfulness. On the fourth instant I attained my 79th year, and when looking back to the days of my *early childhood* and youth, I trust that through mercy I may now say, He that was my morning light is now

become my evening song,—yes, beloved friend, it is the same light that shone in my heart when a little child, and enlightened my path in early life, that shines there now,—it changes not. The same grace then visiting, and shed abroad in the heart, is the same, it changes not. And O how precious the *belief*, that thou, beloved friend and brother, canst bear the same testimony, as thine being the like experience ; so then we may say, individually and unitedly, that goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our life, and if through the help of the holy Spirit we be strengthened to hold on our way in faith, and in faithfulness to the end of our day, we may humbly hope, and reverently trust that through redeeming love and mercy we shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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